HAPPY BIRTHDAY
WE WISH YOU A HAPPY HAPP BIRTHDAY
AND MORE BIRTHDAYS TO COME!!
WE HOPE THIS BRIGHTEN YOUR DAYS.
THANK YOU FOR SUCH A LOYAL STAFF MEMBER
OF SHOUJO CRUSADE.
AUGUST 2ND
SCRIBBLES (NIC) - WISHING YOU WITH HONOR
AUGUST 6TH
IPPY - WISH YOU WITH GREATNESS
WITH LOVE
FROM: SHOUJO CURADE STAFF
WE LOVE YOU BOTH!

Hana no Koe

has been brought to you by

Shoujo Crusade

Credits:

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"IF WE CONSIDER THE AGE OF THE EARTH, THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY BARELY ADDS UP TO A FEW INSIGNIFICANT MILLENNIA. EVEN SO, THOSE FEW MILLENNIA ARE FULL OF AMAZING STORIES THAT FILL OUR IMAGINATIONS. THE COUNTLESS STORIES MADE UP OVER THE CENTURIES BY OUR ANCESTORS ARE MAGNIFICENT PRESENTS, BEARING MEANINGS LEFT TO US AS OUR HERITAGE."

NATSUKI SUMERAGI

.....

NATSUKI SUMERAGI'S COMPENDIUM OF SHORT STORIES ALLOWS US TO ENTER IN A POETIC MANNER, A MYSTERIOUS AND FASCINATING CHINESE UNIVERSE.

Hana no Koe

Natsuki Sumeragi

Hana no Koe NATSUKI SUMERAGI

SEARCHING THROUGH CHANG-AN FOR THE PRETTIEST PEONY, SONG GUI-XIANG PASSES THROUGH THE GARDEN OF THE GYOKU-EN TEMPLE AND MEETS...THE SPIRIT OF A PEONY!

INCLUDED IN THIS BOOK:

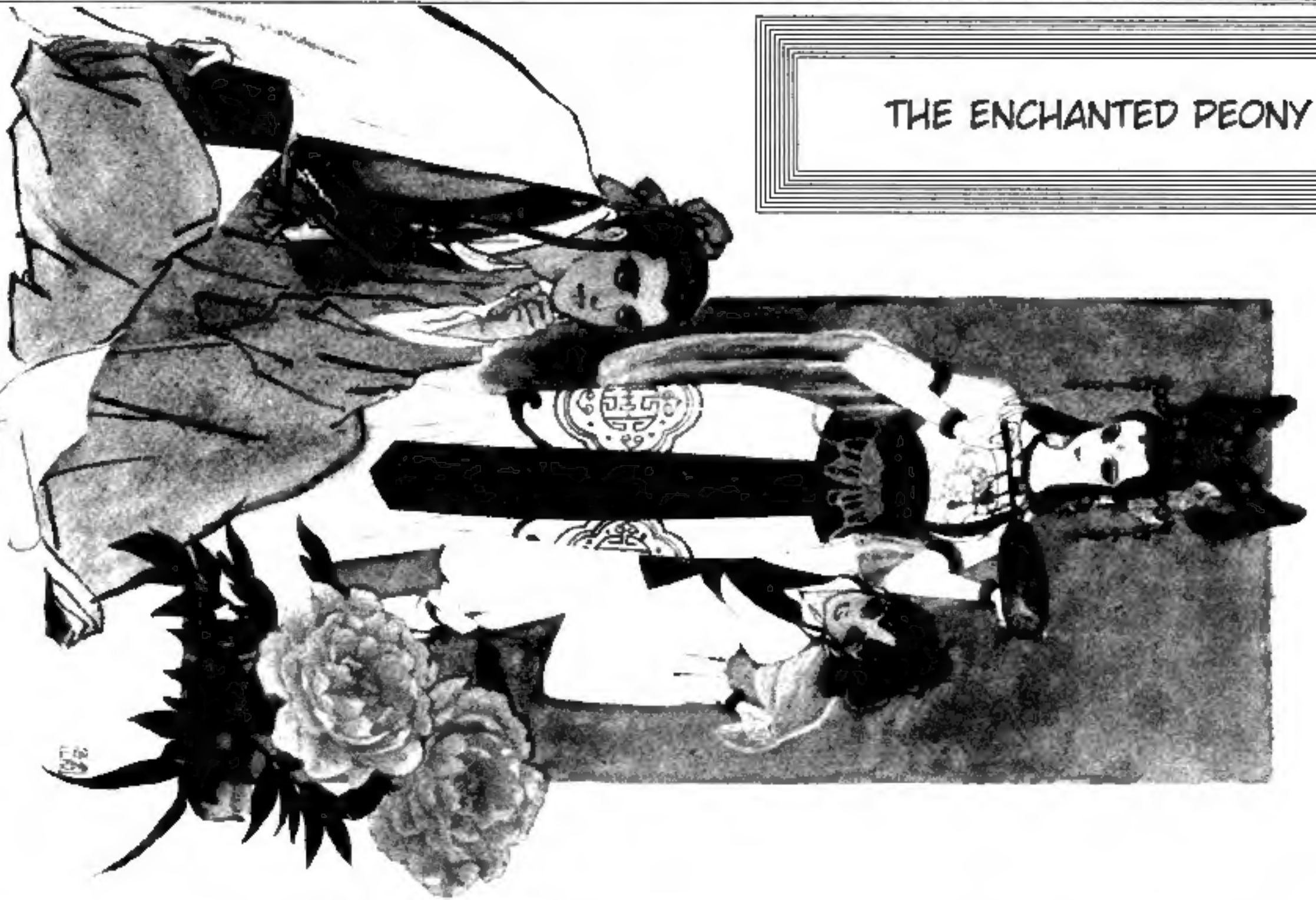
THE ENCHANTED PEONY

THE BUTTERFLY VISITS THE SPRING GARDEN

THE TIGER'S CRY

THE SANCTUARY OF THE SERPENT PRINCESS

THE ENCHANTED PEONY



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WE NEED THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER IN CHANG-AN ...

SONG, DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND THAT FLOWER?

ALAS! THESE PAST FEW YEARS I'VE SPENT MY TIME STUDYING FOR THE MANDARIN EXAM.

HOW ABOUT YOU, CHENG, ANY IDEAS?

THAT WON'T BE HELPED.

IF WE RETURN EMPTY-HANDED, WE'LL BE PUNISHED.

HA HA

WELL, I ADMIT THAT I APPRECIATE FLOWERS ...

BUT I PREFER THEM TO BE "BUDDING YOUNG LADIES"!

ALRIGHT CHENG, SEE YOU LATER.

LET'S SPLIT UP!

I'LL SEARCH THE EASTERN QUARTER!

TEMPLE GYOKU-EN

SANCTUARY OF THE GREAT AND VALIANT BUDDHA

Zz

!

WOW ...

THESE PEONIES ARE VERY BEAUTIFUL!

STOP!!

?

SHE IS SPLENDID ...

OH, THIS ONE.

PERFECT ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO CHOOSE ONE!

LET'S SEE ...

I'M SORRY ...

I THOUGHT THIS GARDEN WAS ABANDONED.

BUT, WHO ARE YOU?

THIS IS THE GARDEN OF THE GYOKU-EN TEMPLE...

IT'S PROHIBITED TO PICK THE FLOWERS!

MY NAME IS SONG GUI-XIANG, I AM AIMING TO PASS THE MANDARIN EXAM.

WHO ARE YOU?

I AM RU-CHUN, THE GUARDIAN OF THE FLOWERS.

AND AS THE VALEDICTORIAN, I HAVE TO BRING A FLOWER* TO THE BANQUET.

A BANQUET WILL BE ORGANIZED FOR THE GRADUATES,

IN THAT CASE, TAKE ONE.

JUST NOT THIS ONE . .

WHAT A PITY!

I APOLOGIZE!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

THIS PEONY IS VERY SPECIAL.

ALRIGHT, I'LL LEAVE IT.

BUT REGRET-FULLY

*DURING THE TIME OF THE MANDARINS, THE FIRST AND SECOND GRADUATES NEEDED TO BRING A FLOWER TO THE BANQUET

THE GRADUATES SENT TO SEARCH FOR FLOWERS, HAVE JUST RETURNED.

HMM, SPLENDID!

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PEONY THAT ATTRACTS ME.

..

IT'S PECULIAR . .

I HAVE NEVER REALLY APPRECIATED FLOWERS.

WE SHOULD ALL GO ADMIRE THE PEONIES IN THE TEMPLE

MEANWHILE, EVERYONE SHOULD GO PLAY SOME POLO TO ENTERTAIN THEMSELVES.

IN THE GYOKU-EN TEMPLE, IN THE CHONG-XIAN QUARTER, YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WHAT DID YOU FIND?

GYOKU-EN,

SUCH A SUGGESTIVE NAME. .

GYOKU-EN: "PRECIOUS DESTINY"

I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU.

AS FOR YOU, WAIT A MOMENT.

THANK YOU, YOUR EXCELL-ENCY

LET'S DRINK FOR THE TWO BEST GRADUATES!

AS FOR ME, I AM STILL UNMARRIED.

I HAVE A WIFE AND A SON TO SPEND MY MODEST LIFE WITH.

YES ...

BY THE WAY, ARE YOU MARRIED? WITH CHILDREN?

IT'S INCREDIBLE, YOU'RE SO YOUNG ..

YES, FATHER.

OH REALLY? SONG GUI-XIANG, YOU'RE A BACHELOR?

PERFECT!

EH!

FENG-QIN!

HERE IS MY BELOVED DAUGHTER, FENG-QUIN.

PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE

GUI-XIANG

COULD YOU PLACE THE PEONY IN HER HAIR?

EXCUSE ME?

I DON'T KNOW IF

I'M REQUESTING YOU TO.

COME NOW

FINE
EXCUSE ME, MISS.
SHE WILL DELIGHT YOU.
YOU ARE MAGNIFICENT
WHAT DO YOU THINK, FENG-QIN?
?
WHAT A SPLENDID DAY
IT'S ABSOLUTELY OUR DAY OF GLORY.

IMPOSS-IBLE!

WITH MY ROOTS, I CAN NEVER HAVE SUCH AN HONOR.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "EXCUSE ME"? DON'T PLAY STUPID!

HIS EXCELLENCY FOUND YOU WORTHY OF BECOMING HIS SON-IN-LAW.

YOUR FUTURE IS ALL SET, WITH SUCH A PERSON AT YOUR SIDE!

YOU WILL SOON BE VERY SOUGHT AFTER.

THESE DAYS, THAT DOESN'T EVEN MATTHER.

YOUNG MANDARINS LIKE YOU, EASILY HAVE ACCESS TO PRESTIGIOUS POSITIONS.

EXCUSE ME?

THERE'S NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN A MARRIAGE FOR LOVE.

COME NOW; THINK OF YOUR WIFE..

THE PEONY FROM THE GYOKU-EN TEMPLE WAS YOUR LUCKY CHARM.

TOO BAD THAT I'M ALREADY MARRIED.

SOMEONE IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
?
YOU'RE LATE!
I WAS CHATTING WITH MY FRIEND ON THE WAY BACK.
IS THAT YOU, GUI-XIANG?
GOOD EVENING, MOTHER
LOOK, IT'S THE PEONY FROM THE GARDEN!
GOOD EVENING, MR. SONG.
AHH, ITS YOU...
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
YES, I'D LIKE TO GIVE IT TO YOU.
BECAUSE OF YOUR NAME.

MANAGED TO CAPTURE YOUR ATTENTION, IT MUST BE A SIGN.
IF THIS PEONY ...
IN THAT CASE, FOR HER HAPPINESS, TAKE MY SISTER.
BUT I HAVE RECONSIDERED IT.
BECAUSE THIS AFTERNOON YOU WERE SAYING THAT .. YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE GOING TO CUT IT
EVEN MORE SO, IF SHE DOESN'T LIKE YOU, I WILL COME TO FETCH HER..
I HOPE IT ISN'T TOO EXPENSIVE.
AGREED, I WILL BUY IT FROM YOU
HOW MUCH?
I DON'T WANT MONEY!
YOUR SISTER?
YES...HER NAME IS DAI-CHUN AND SHE'S MY AGE.
IT'S GOOD FOR A FLOWER GARDEN.
HA HA HA YOU'RE THE PEONY'S SIBLING.

HE IS PECULIAR.
IS THIS A NEW SELLING STRATEGY?
BY THE WAY, WATER HER, AND HER NEBRIATION WILL DISSIPATE.
WATER
"HER INEBRIATION WILL DISSIPATE"?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
Is it change water?
GOOD LUCK WITH HER.
?
?
?!
blop

WHY DID YOU WAKE ME UP?
I WAS SLEEPING SO WELL!
RU-CHUN
MM
..

YOU ...

WHO ARE YOU?

...IS THIS A DREAM?

DON'T BE MAD AT HIM.

IS IT A SPIRIT? CAN SUCH A BEAUTY EXIST ON EARTH?

MISS, YOU'RE AS BEAUTIFUL AS A FLOWER,

BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT YOU ARE A FLOWER!

HI HI HI !

IS RU-CHUN ALSO....

YES, HE IS ALSO A PEONY.

WHEN INEBRIATED WE TURN INTO OUR ORIGINAL FORM.

YESTERDAY I DRANK TOO MUCH...

MY BROTHER BROUGHT ME HERE WITHOUT MY PERMISSION ....

THANKS TO HIM, I GOT THE CHANCE TO HAVE YOU BY MY SIDE.

DON'T YOU THINK PERHAPS DESTINY BROUGHT US TOGETHER?

DON'T WE SAY "ONE NIGHT OF LOVE TIES YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE"?
WELL, THEN PROMISE ME YOU WON'T ABANDON ME LIKE A FAN IN AUTUMN.
WELL, I SWEAR TO NEVER ABANDON YOU.
WE ARE HERE NOW.
I KNEW IT AT FIRST GLANCE, AND THEN THERE WAS NO MISTAKE.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE THE GIRL I WAS LOOKING FOR..
AH, RU-CHUN!
GOOD EVENING, MR.SONG ...
IT'S ME.

MY CHILD, WHAT'S...!

HOW ARE YOU? IS THE FLOWER TO YOUR LIKING?

DON'T TEASE ME!

SPEAKING ABOUT ME AS IF I WAS AN OBJECT FOR SALE

HOW CAN I NOT APPRECIATE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER?

BUT, WHAT IS ALL THIS?

YOU SEEM HAPPY. SHOULDN'T YOU BE THANKING ME?

TELL ME, RU-CHUN ....

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION?

MOTHER, IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN...

SONG! ARE YOU THERE?

CHENG, HELLO ....

I KNOW IT'S EARLY, BUT...

I HAVE SOME GREAT NEWS!

WHAT!!

YESTERDAY YOU SAID YOU WERE A BACHELOR

YES, BUT I MET MY DESTINED ONE LAST NIGHT.

AND HIS EXCELLENCY'S DAUGHTER?!

WHAT ABOUT HER.. NOTHING WAS PROMISED!

WHO IS THIS WOMAN!!?

YOU ARE COMPLETELY UNAWARE ...

I SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU.

HIS EXCELLENCY LIKED YOU A LOT!

FURTHER-MORE ...
YOUR CAREER WILL SUFFER.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THEN TELL HIM I MUST REFUSE. .
MOREOVER, HE ENTRUSTED ME WITH ARRANGING A MARRIAGE BETWEEN YOU AND HIS DAUGHTER..
SADLY, I ALREADY AGREED TO HIS DEMAND.
WHAT?!
YOU DID THAT WITHOUT SPEAKING TO ME?!
I AM DISAPP-OINTED.
I HURRIED TOO MUCH.
I didn't think you'd refuse.
YOU NEED TO RECON-SIDER.
IF YOU DECLINE HIS OFFER AND MARRY ANOTHER GIRL, HIS EXCELLENCY WILL BE HUMILIATED.

YOU WANT ME TO TAKE HIS DAUGHTER AS MY MISTRESS?

ACCEPT HIS PROPOSAL!

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE DAI-CHUN AS YOUR MISTRESS

LISTEN, WHEN YOU WILL OCCUPY AN IMPORTANT POSITION,

...

OF COURSE NOT, IDIOT!

YOU NEED TO LEAVE, DAI-CHUN.

NO WAY!

BUT IF I REFUSE, ALL MY EFFORTS WILL BE IN VAIN...

IS IT REALLY?

YOU CAN JUST REFUSE

AH... WHAT A DISASTER!

SEE YOU LATER!

ALRIGHT, I'M GOING...

CHENG!

BECAUSE MY PRESENCE IS AN IMPEDIMENT FOR YOUR CAREER, NO?
WHY?!
SPLIT UP?!
WE NEED TO SPLIT UP...
IN THAT CASE
WHAT?!
BUT I LOVE YOU
EVEN IF I CANNOT PROCLAIM MY LOVE...
BELEIVE IN ME
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
WELL
PERHAPS YOU CAN STAY BY MY SIDE AS A PEONY
...
IT'S COMP-LICATED.

ALRIGHT ...

SISTER!

IT'S DECIDED ...

MOTHER, PREPARE THE WEDDING CEREMONY.

...

I WAS WRONG ABOUT HIM.
I AM SORRY
SISTER

AND WHY NOT?!
I KNOW I AM SICK OF HEARING YOU SAY SO!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOT TO TOUCH IT! YOU KNOW THIS PEONY IS VERY PRECIOUS TO ME.

IT'S NOT YOURS.
SO WHAT?!
IT'S NOTHING BUT A FLOWER AFTER ALL.
OUT OF THE QUESTION!
YES, BUT I LIKE IT. IT WILL LOOK CHARMING IN MY HAIR!
HA HA HA, YOU CAN NEVER REFUSE HIM.
THE FLATTERIES OF YOUR KIND ARE DESPICABLE.
..
GRR ....
HOW RUDE! I SHALL TELL MY FATHER!
IT'S ONLY THANKS TO HIM THAT YOU BECAME THE DIRECTOR OF DOCUMENTS*!
*POSITION THAT FACILITATES RISING IN RANKS UP TO HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL

THIS PLACE IS TOO DANGEROUS.
WE'RE RETURNING TO THE TEMPLE
NO, I WANT HER TO STAY WITH ME!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING DAI-CHUN?
RU-CHUN.
!!
BECAUSE IF YOUR SISTER IS FAR FROM ME...
SOMEONE MIGHT STEAL HER ...
FENG-QIN CAN CUT HER AT ANY TIME.
WHY, EXACTLY?
SHH!!
RU-CHUN! THEY'LL HEAR US!!
DO YOU DOUBT HER FIDELITY?!

BUT ...
YOU DON'T LOVE HER ....
SHE'S STUBBORN; I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
WHILE YOU CLAIM TO LOVE DAI-CHUN, BUT WHY SHOULD SHE HIDE AND RISK HER LIFE? IT'S UNFAIR!!
YET YOU MARRIED HER.
AND I ENTRUSTED YOU WITH MY SISTER BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WERE HONEST...
...
I MARRIED FENG-QIN AGAINST MY WILL.
RU-CHUN, MEN'S LIVES AREN'T SIMPLE.

IF YOU TRULY LOVED HER, YOU WOULD DONE A BETTER JOB PROTECTING HER!

YOU WOULDN'T LET HER BE UNHAPPY!!

RU-CHUN, I LOVE YOUR SISTER! IT'S WHY ..

ISN'T IT THE DEW?

LOOK, SHE'S CRYING ...

LISTEN, I WILL TRY TO REASON WITH FENG-QIN.

AT LEAST SHE CAN SEE ME EVERY DAY .

...

HUMANS ARE SO SELFISH ...

DEW DROPS ARE THE TEARS OF THE FLOWERS.

AH ...

FENG-QIN IS MORE CAPRIC-IOUS EVERY DAY.

SHE HAD NO ...

INTENTION TO LISTENING TO ME.

pffh

MADAM ...

I HAVE RETURNED

GOOD EVENING ...

Ru-Chun was right. It wouldve been better to take Dai-Chun back to the temple.

She only does what she pleases

I am worried.

I need to hurry

Why did I oppose?

I CAN GO THIS EVENING WHEN I GO VISIT MY PARENTS.
WHY NOT...
THE PEONIES ARE IN SEASON.
YOU SHOULD GO ADMIRE THEM N THE GARDENS.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE YOU VISITED YOUR FATHER, HE WILL BE .
YES, OF COURSE
MADAME .
THAT PEONY IN YOUR HAIR?!

I THOUGHT IT WOULD SUIT ME WONDERFULLY.
IT'S YOURS
YES, I KNOW ...
BUT YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CAREER, RATHER THAN THE FLOWER!
DESPITE MY REPEATED FORBIDDING!
NOOO!!
WHAT!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO MY FATHER WHAT YOU'VE BECOME TODAY.
SO DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE THAT.
EEEK!
ENOUGH!
YOU DARED TO!!

THAT PEONY WAS MY BELOVED!!

DO YOU HATE ME THAT MUCH?!

YOU KILLED IT!

GO TELL HIM THE WHOLE THING!!

NOT ONLY DID YOU HIT ME, BUT NOW YOU'RE ACCUSING ME OF KILLING A FLOWER.

IF MY FATHER FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS ...

GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!

YOU WON'T SEE ME AGAIN...
GOODBYE,
IN ANY CASE, I CAN'T STAY WITH A MADMAN!
...
MARRY THAT FLOWER IF YOU PLEASE!
WON'T YOU HOLD HER?
OLDER BROTHER..

A FLOWER IS AT MERCY...

OF THOSE WHO PICK IT UP AND ABANDON IT.

EVEN THOUGH ...

NO ...

I FINALLY UNDER-STOOD MY MISTAKE.

IT'S TOO LATE ...

I'M SORRY RU-CHUN.

IT S NOT I TO WHOM YOU SHOULD APOLOG ZE.

DAI-CHUN ...

I BEG YOUR FOR-GIVENESS, DAI-CHUN.

I'M SORRY ...

EH?
DA... DAI-CHAN ?!
MY LOVE...
I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN
BUT THIS PEOPLE
WASN'T ME
YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND?
YOU BUT HOW

HOWEVER, MY INTENTIONS WERE STILL UNDEFINED.

THANKS TO HIM, I ESCAPED THE WORST.

I SECRETLY EXCHANGED IT.

I WAS VERY WORRIED.

JUST LIKE YOU HUMANS HAVE FEELINGS...

A FLOWER ALSO HAS ITS FEELINGS.

OH, REALLY?

SO I DECIDED THAT ...

I WANTED TO BE PICKED BY THE ONE THAT LOVES ME TRUTHFULLY...

MY LOVE, I AM ALIVE.

FROM NOW ON, WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT FENG-QIN?

!

...I WOULD LEAVE YOU, IF YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING UPON DISCOVERING THIS BROKEN FLOWER.

I CAN'T STAND LIVING WITH HER.
BUT YOU WILL RUIN YOUR CAREER.
SO WHAT...? I CAN NEVER BE PUNISHED ENOUGH FOR THE WAY I TREATED YOU.
BUT ...
... YOU ALSO SUFFERED ...
.... BECAUSE OF ME.

SONG!

I DOUBT IT.

WHAT HAPPENED?

HIS EXCELLENCY IS FURIOUS AND HE SAYS HE'LL FIRE YOU.

HELLO, CHENG!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

DON'T WORRY

ONCE HE IS REPLACED YOU CAN...

DON'T BE DISCOURAGED.

STARTING TODAY, I WILL START TO CULTIVATE FLOWERS.

CHENG ...

YOU SEEM HAPPY!

I came here to cheer you up.

YES

MY WIFE AND HER BROTHER CULTIVATE BEAUTIFUL PEONIES.

FLOWER?!

THE ENCHANTED PEONY - END

Do you want to make this cute cow sad?

If you answered no then
We need your help to bring
this little critter alive
in the manga community.

A.K.A =WE NEED STAFFS

Positions available-Dedicated Editors.

-Japanese (particularly this) / Chinese Translator

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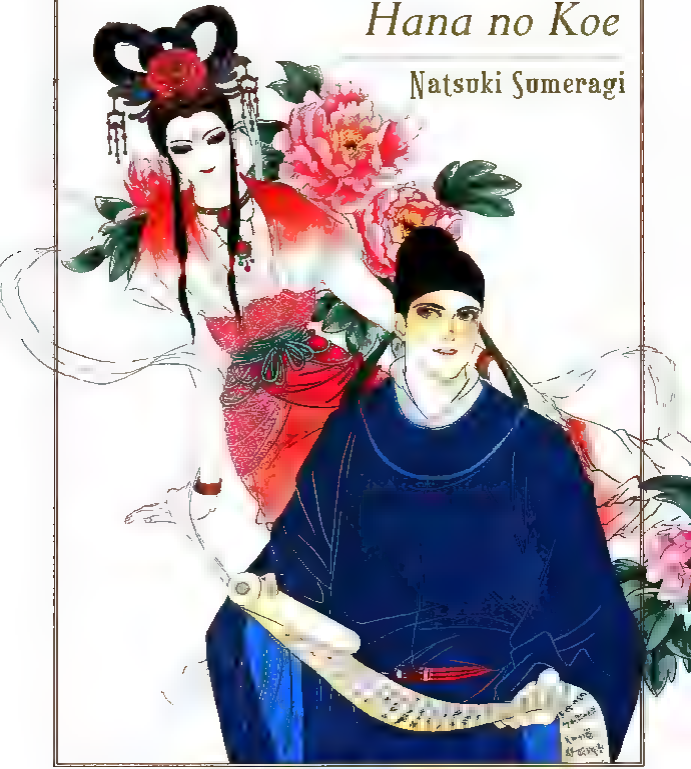
Hana no Koe

Natsuki Sumeragi



Hana no Koe chapter 2

Shoujo Crusade

(credits)

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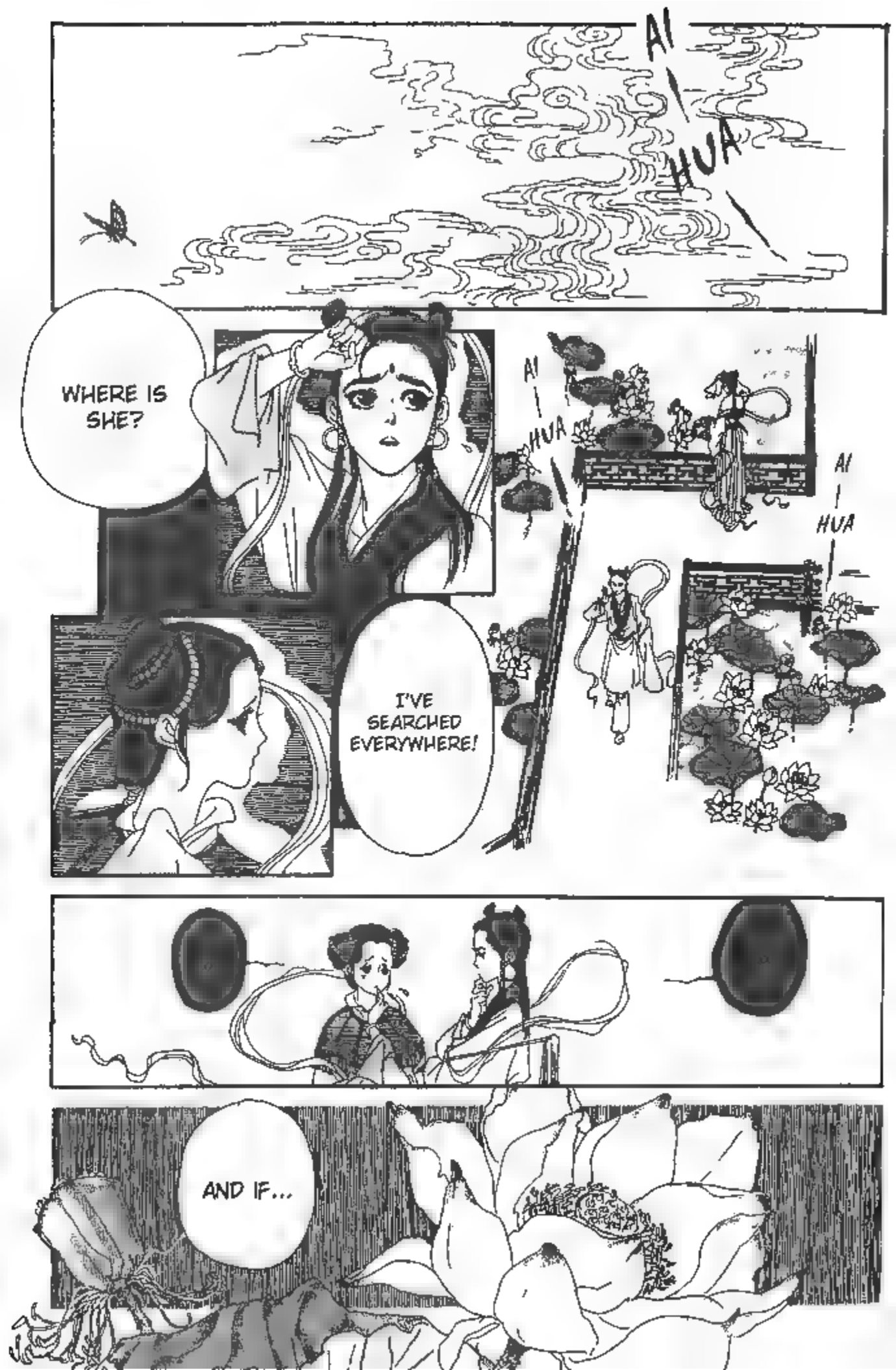
The Butterfly Visits the Spring Garden

But being near the flower goddess day-to-day
Life here is agreeable.
I want to leave
is monotonous.
the Heavenly Kingdom
So.


AI
HUA
WHERE IS SHE?
I'VE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE!
AI
HUA
AI
HUA
AND IF...

AI-HUA HAS ALWAYS BEEN ATTRACTED TO THE HUMAN WORLD.
MAYBE SHE WENT DOWN TO EARTH.
HELLO SONG!
OH!
HELLO RU-CHUN.
I CAME ACROSS CHENG TODAY
MY HELPING COMRADE ...

"...IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE YOU LEFT YOUR CIVIL SERVANT POSITION TO CULTIVATE FLOWERS. I'M PUZZLED."
AS A RESULT OF IT, I CHANGED MY OPINION CONSIDERABLY
?
HE WAS DEMOTED BECAUSE OF POLITICS.
OH, HOW SAD!
"YOU CULITVATE MAGNIFICENT PEONIES. IT'S PROFITABLE."
"IN THE END, YOU CHOSE THE BEST WAY."
AND SURELY...
"YOU HAVE DAI-CHUN, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER," HE SAID.

!
SNACK ON THIS PEACH INSTEAD OF LISTENING TO THIS FOOLISH TALK.
IF HE KNEW WHO YOU TWO WERE!
HA! HA! HA!
HE DIDN'T REALLY CONSIDER WHAT HE WAS SAYING!
It's for you.
Thank you
...
THANKS TO ME, THEY FINALLY HAVE TRUE HAPPINESS.
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THE NEWLYWEDS WERE ALSO CHARMING.

And now...
I really want to return to the temple where we lived before...
I'm all alone...
I had to find what was bad about being here.
I'M AN EVIL BROTHER!
HMM!
THAT SCENT!

but the flowers are gorgeous
People say that the world of humans is impure
is wonderful
how delightful
The smell fills the sky
Springtime's appeal
SSHH

And
He's napping while lying on the grass
A boy!
He's cute

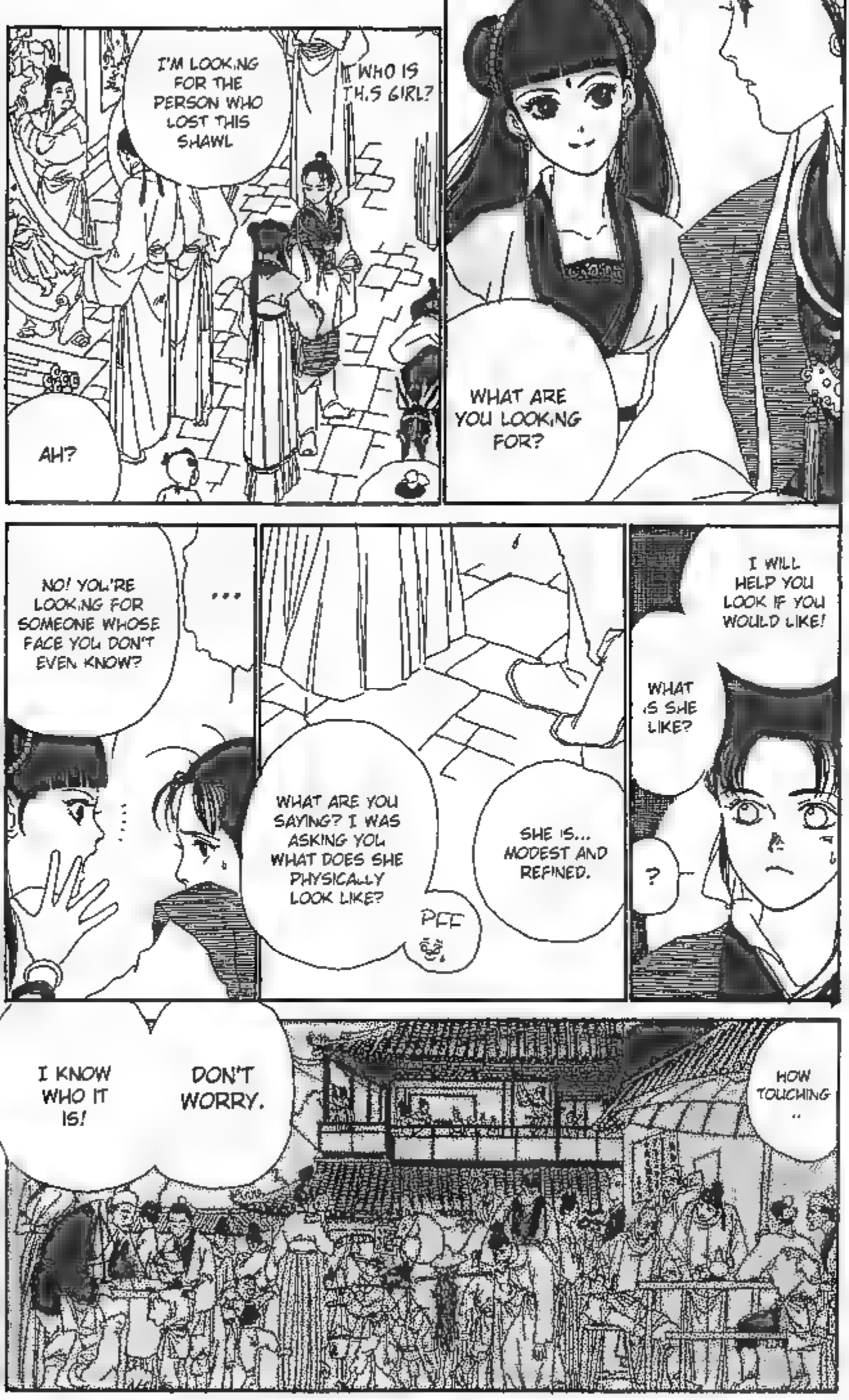
He smells nice
BRUSH

Oh my!
MY SHAWL!
MM.
Roll
WAKE UP...
EH....
...

...
HAHA
LITTLE SCATTER-BRAIN.
YOU THOUGHT I WAS A FLOWER?
!!

IT TASTES SWEET...
...
IT'S STRANGE, I FELT ..
LIKE A PRESENCE...
AND TH.S SHAWL WAS LOST NEAR ME

SHE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE AUDACITY. .TO KISS ME
IS MY IMAGINATION PLAYING TRICKS ON ME?
MS. BUTTERFLY FLED.
DID SHE TRANSFORM INTO A HUMAN?
OR IS IT THAT A SOUL OF A WOMAN BECAME A BUTTERFLY?
Bah, she wouldn't have been able to resist my charms!
I'm not bad.
HE HE
OR MODEST AND REFINED
MAYBE DEEP DOWN SHE'S SHY
Since she fled
YOU'LL FRIGHTEN PEOPLE!
YOU'RE LAUGHING ALL ALONE LIKE AN IDIOT...
FURTHERMORE, YOU'RE WEARING A WOMAN'S SHAWL!


I'M LOOKING FOR THE PERSON WHO LOST THIS SHAWL
WHO IS THIS GIRL?
AH?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
NO! YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHOSE FACE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW?
...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I WAS ASKING YOU WHAT DOES SHE PHYSICALLY LOOK LIKE?
PFF
SHE IS... MODEST AND REFINED.
I WILL HELP YOU LOOK IF YOU WOULD LIKE!
WHAT IS SHE LIKE?
?
I KNOW WHO IT IS!
DON'T WORRY.
HOW TOUCHING ..

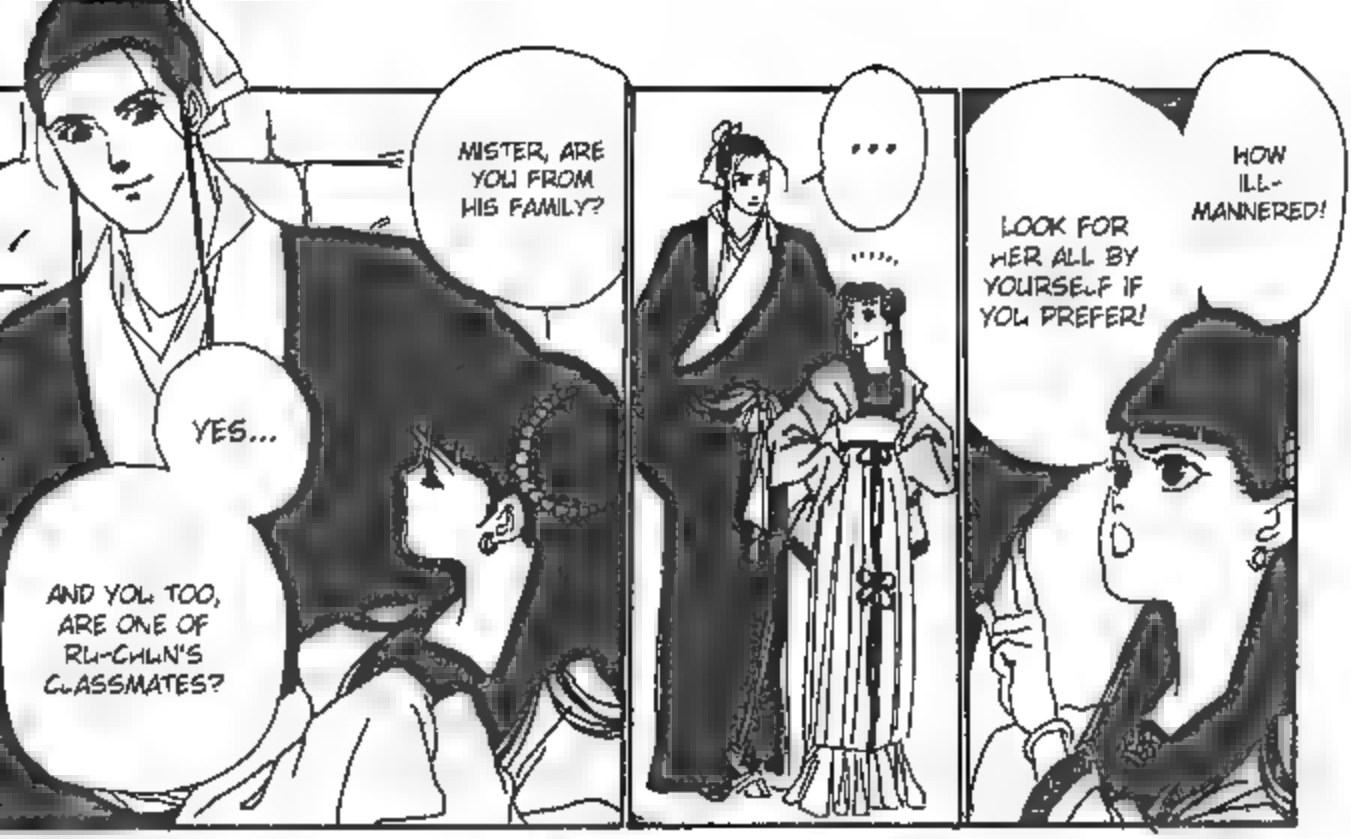
BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO FOUND IT! I'LL GIVE THE SHAWL TO HER MYSELF!
THAT'S RUBBISH. I'LL RETURN THE SHAWL TO HER.
AND SHE'S VERY CUTE!
REALLY?!
I NEED TO FIND HER!
YOU INSIST?!
WHY DO YOU WANT TO MEET HER AGAIN?
IT'S...
DON'T TOUCH ME!
eeeeeh-
PLEASE..
COME ON .. TELL ME WHERE SHE LIVES.
YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME!
I HAVE THE IMPRESSION!
YOU THINK I WOULD GIVE HER ADDRESS TO A STRANGER?

...
SHE IS STRANGE
But rather nice.
LET GO OF ME NOW!
HE HE
Search again
So you will find me even more

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
I DECIDED TO TELL YOU WHERE SHE IS!
YOU AGAIN?!
ONLY IF YOU CATCH ME!
BUT IT'S TRUE!
Nah nah!
HERE I AM!
...
WHOOSH!
AH!
YOU COULD FALL!
WATCH OUT!
AAH!
MISSED!
Ha
Ha
Ha

LOOK! THE WIND RAISED ME!
FLYING IS INTOXICATING!
WHAT?!
Flap
WHY DID SHE DO THAT?!
AH!
I WAS SCARED FOR YOU!
YOU COULDVE GOTTEN HURT!
?

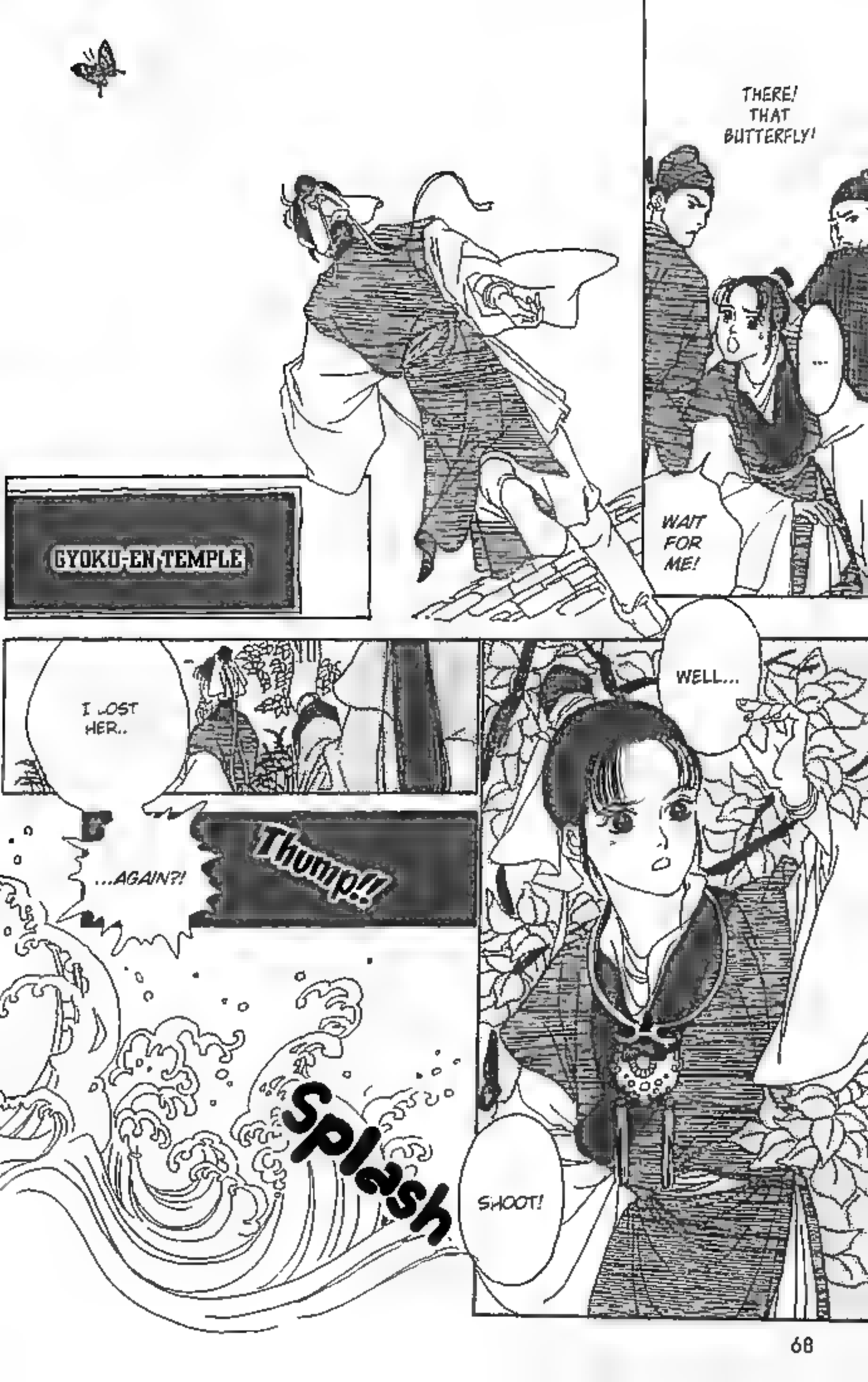
SONG!
BUT...
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SEEN THAT.
SHE'S INCERDIBLY LIGHT!
ARE YOU OKAY ?
!
HEY IDIOT!
ARE YOU COMING DOWN?
WAIT, RU-CHUN!
SHE TURNED ME INTO AN ASS..
I'M GOING!!


MISTER, ARE YOU FROM HIS FAMILY?
YES...
AND YOU TOO, ARE ONE OF RU-CHUN'S CLASSMATES?
...
.....
HOW ILL-MANNERED!
LOOK FOR HER ALL BY YOURSELF IF YOU PREFER!

He He He!
HIS NAME IS RU-CHUN!
HOW FUNNY. .
RU-CHUN*?
*Ru-chun means "like spring"

I SUCCEEDED IN GETTING AWAY.
THAT IS ...
IT'S STRANGE
HERE I AM WORRIED ABOUT WHERE SHE S

WHILE, THE GIRL I'M SEEKING IS MISS BUTTERFLY
AH!!
SHE MUST HAVE LEFT
IMPOSSIBLE.
I'VE SEARCHED THE CITY FOR DAYS
LIKE A BUTTERFLY WHO FLIES WHEREVER SHE LIKES


THERE! THAT BUTTERFLY!
...
WAIT FOR ME!
GYOKU-EN TEMPLE
I LOST HER..
...AGAIN?!
Thump!!
WELL...
Splash
SHOOT!

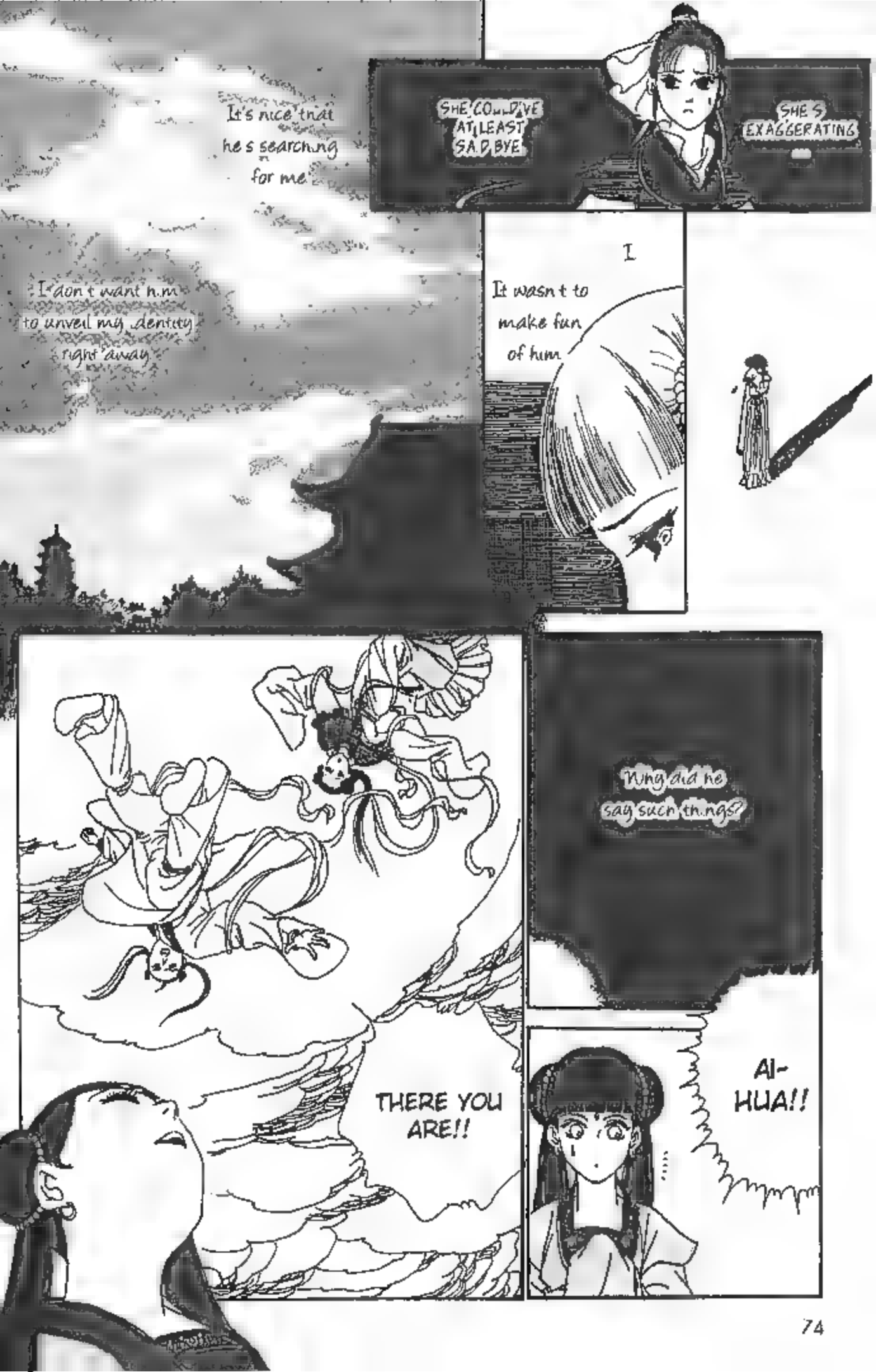
!!
Her again?!
HEY IDIOT ...
YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR HER IN THE WATER?
Splish
Ha Ha Ha
I LOST HER AGAIN BECAUSE OF YOU.
HOW DID YOU "NOT THINK"!!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD FALL.
WHY ...
DID YOU PUSH ME?!
SO, OF COURSE YOU'RE NOT SCARED...
OH COME, YOU DON'T LOOK SCARED!
YES, OF COURSE...
YOU HAVE TO REPAY ME!
OH I'M SCARED!

BUT THEY'RE NOT OFFENSIVE!
OH YEAH, WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF?
THEN I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
REALLY?
...
THERE ARE MANY ...
ESPECIALLY THE SPIDERS AND PRAYING MANTIS, WHEN THEY LOOK AT ME I GET SCARED!
COME LOOK!
WHAT?
LOOK!

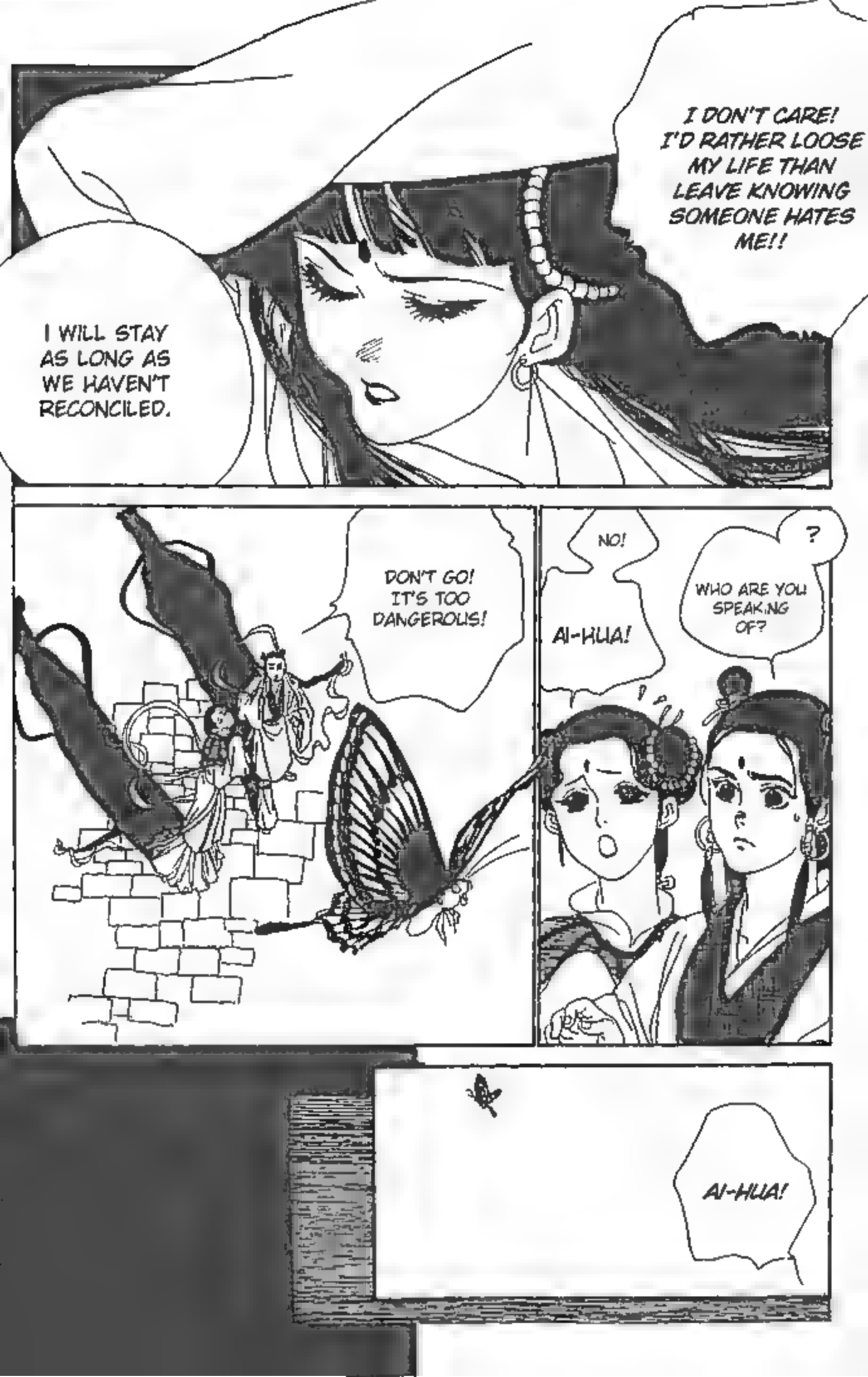
HA HA HA
IT'S GONE NOW.
HA HA...
EEEEEKK!!
!
SO... SORRY!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD BE THIS SCARED!

ME?
I'M DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING AND YOU PREVENTED ME...
IT'S VERY MEAN ON YOUR PART!
I WAS SCARED TO DEATH; IT WAS DESPICABLE ON YOUR PART!
YOU DESERVED IT!
MOREOVER, IT WAS YOU WHO WAS TWICE THE DESPICABLE ONE!
DON'T EXAGGERATE. IT WAS ONLY A PRAYING MANTIS
IT DIDN'T REQUIRE A SLAP.
IT WAS A JOKE!
YOU DID IT ON PURPOSE!

BUT THAT TRULY VEXED ME.
FOR YOU, IT WAS A GAME.
I HAVE HAD RATHER ENOUGH OF YOUR TEASING..
...GOODBYE!
..I.. I JUST WANTED ..
IT WAS A JOKE!
...


It's nice that he's searching for me
I don't want him to unveil my identity right away
SHE COULD'VE AT LEAST SAID BYE
SHE'S EXAGGERATING
I
It wasn't to make fun of him
Why did he say such things?
THERE YOU ARE!!
AI-HUA!!

BUT WHERE IS YOUR SHAWL?
I LOST IT
THE GODDESS IS VERY ANGRY.
YOU HAVE TO...
NOT NOW ..
WHAT DID YOU GO TO EARTH TO PICK UP?
COME, LET'S RETURN.
THAT'S GOOD. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LEAVING!
YOU CAN'T LEAVE HERE WITHOUT IT!
NOOOOO
THAT'S TERRIBLE!
AI-HUA!
YES, HUMANS AREN'T HONEST AND THERE ARE HORRIBLE INSECTS!
YOU WON'T SURVIVE LONG HERE.
YOU CAN'T DECIDE THAT YOURSELF!
THE HUMAN WORLD IS FULL OF DANGERS!

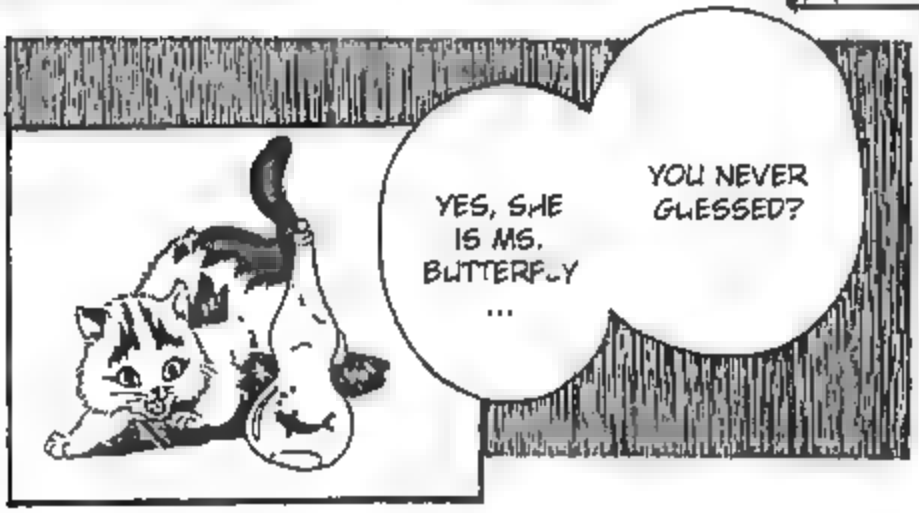

I DON'T CARE! I'D RATHER LOOSE MY LIFE THAN LEAVE KNOWING SOMEONE HATES ME!!
I WILL STAY AS LONG AS WE HAVEN'T RECONCILED.
DON'T GO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
NO!
AI-HUA!
?
WHO ARE YOU SPEAKING OF?
AI-HUA!

Slam
RU...
HO
HOW IS SHE GOING TO MESS WITH ME THIS TIME?!
RU-CHUN...
...
SHE KNOWS MY FIRST NAME?!
YOU REFUSE TO SEE ME?
YOU'RE MAD AT ME AGAIN?!

RU-CHUN ...
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE!
YOU ALSO REFUSE TO SPEAK TO ME?!
SHE DIDN'T LEARN THE LESSON I TAUGHT HER
OPEN IT. I BEG YOU.
SHE WILL DO IT AGAIN IF I OPEN THE DOOR
I CAN SMELL YOUR SCENT ...
THE FIRST TIME I APPROACHED YOU, YOU SMELLED LIKE A FLOWER.
I THOUGHT IT CAME FROM THE GARDEN OF FLOWERS...
BUT YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW TOLD ME...
...
I WAS OVERJOYED TO LEARN THAT.
THAT IN FACT YOU WERE A FLOWER SPIRIT.

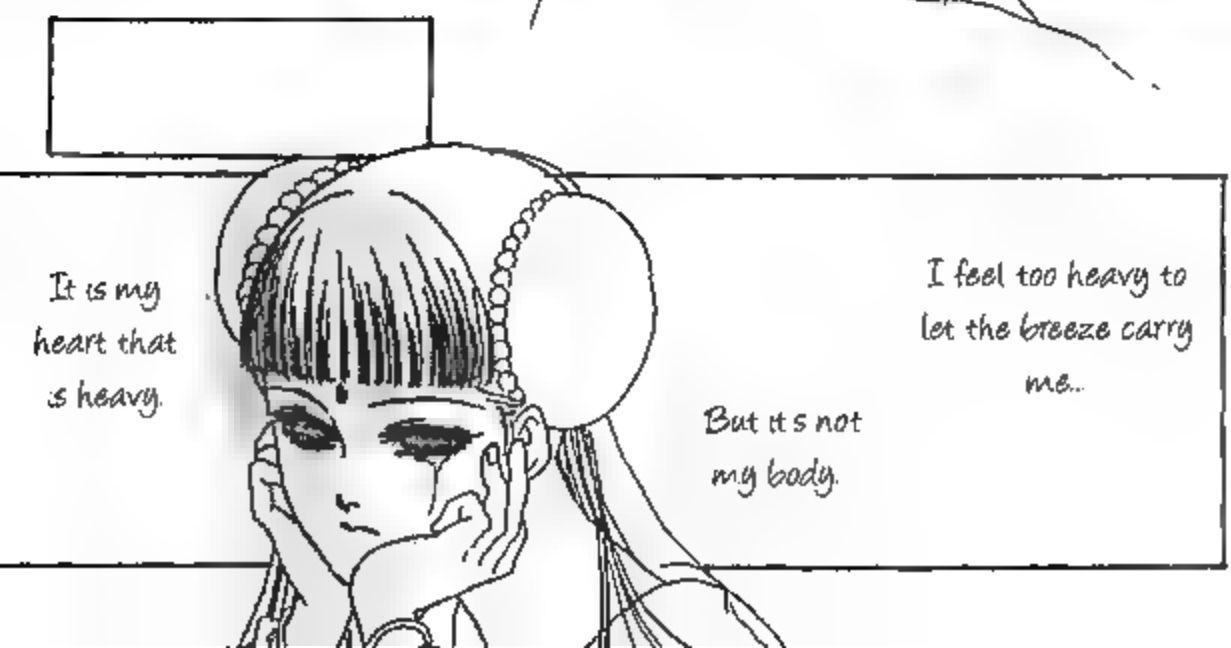
BECAUSE I AM...
WELL I AM...

Clack


YOU NEVER GUESSED?
YES, SHE IS MS. BUTTERFLY ...

RU-CHUN
HER BEHAVIOR IS DESPICABLE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT.
WHY A SECRET?
OOPS, I MADE A MISTAKE!
IT WAS A SECRET ....
A SECRET?
If it was a flower, one would understand amazingly...
Because I am a butterrfly...
The flower and butterfly are inseparable.
YOU ARE STUPID Ru-CHUN!
IT WASN'T VICIOUSNESS. SHE JUST WANTED TO HAVE FUN.
But keep guarding this secret a while longer.
So, I can give him a fine surprise.

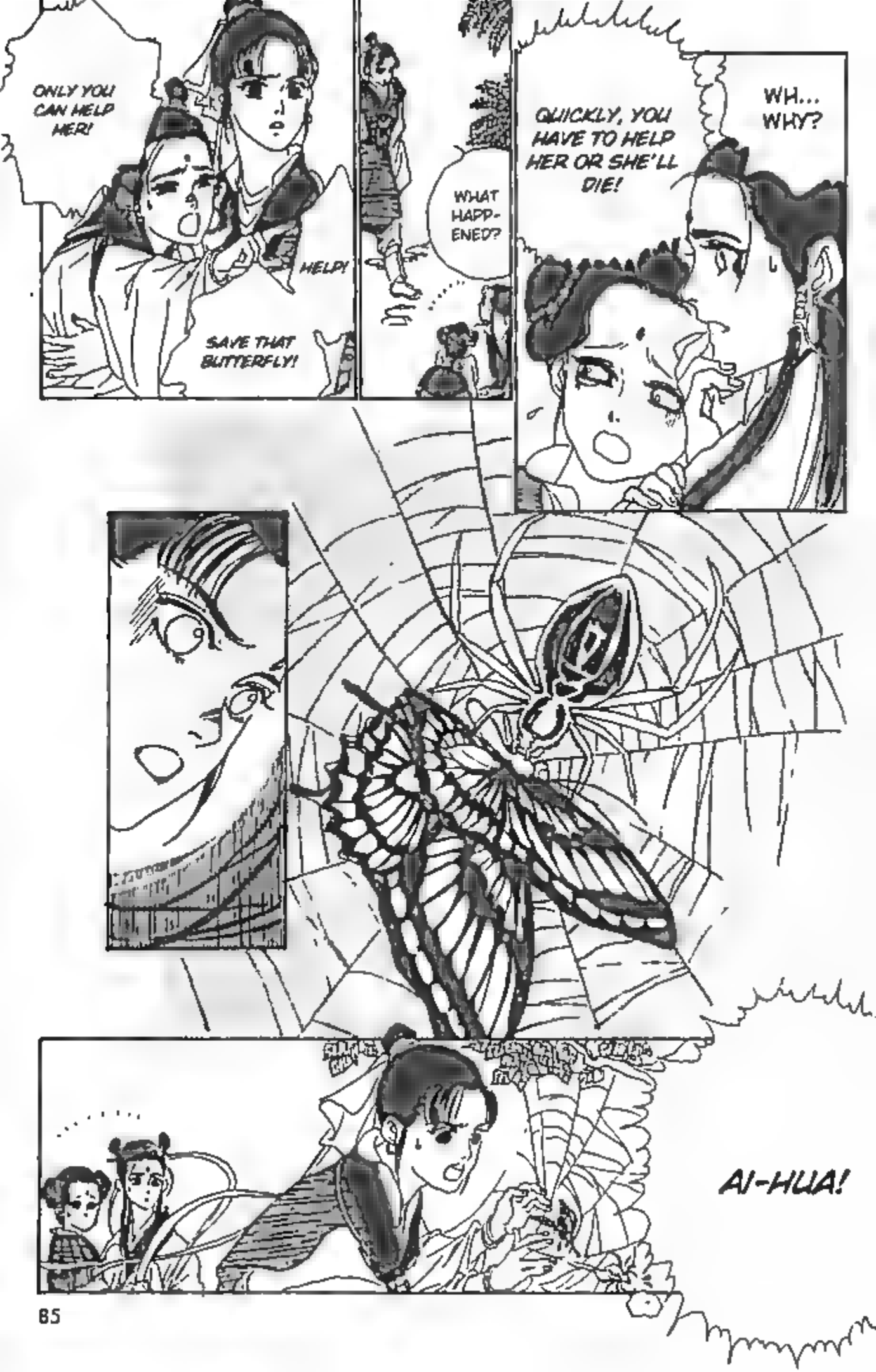
I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND.
AND TOLD ME HER FIRST NAME.
SHE WAS HAPPY
GUESS...
YES.
HER FIRST NAME?
HER NAME IS AI-HUA"
*means "love flowers"
A.-HUA!
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME SOONER!!
OH NO!!


It is my heart that is heavy.
But it's not my body.
I feel too heavy to let the breeze carry me..

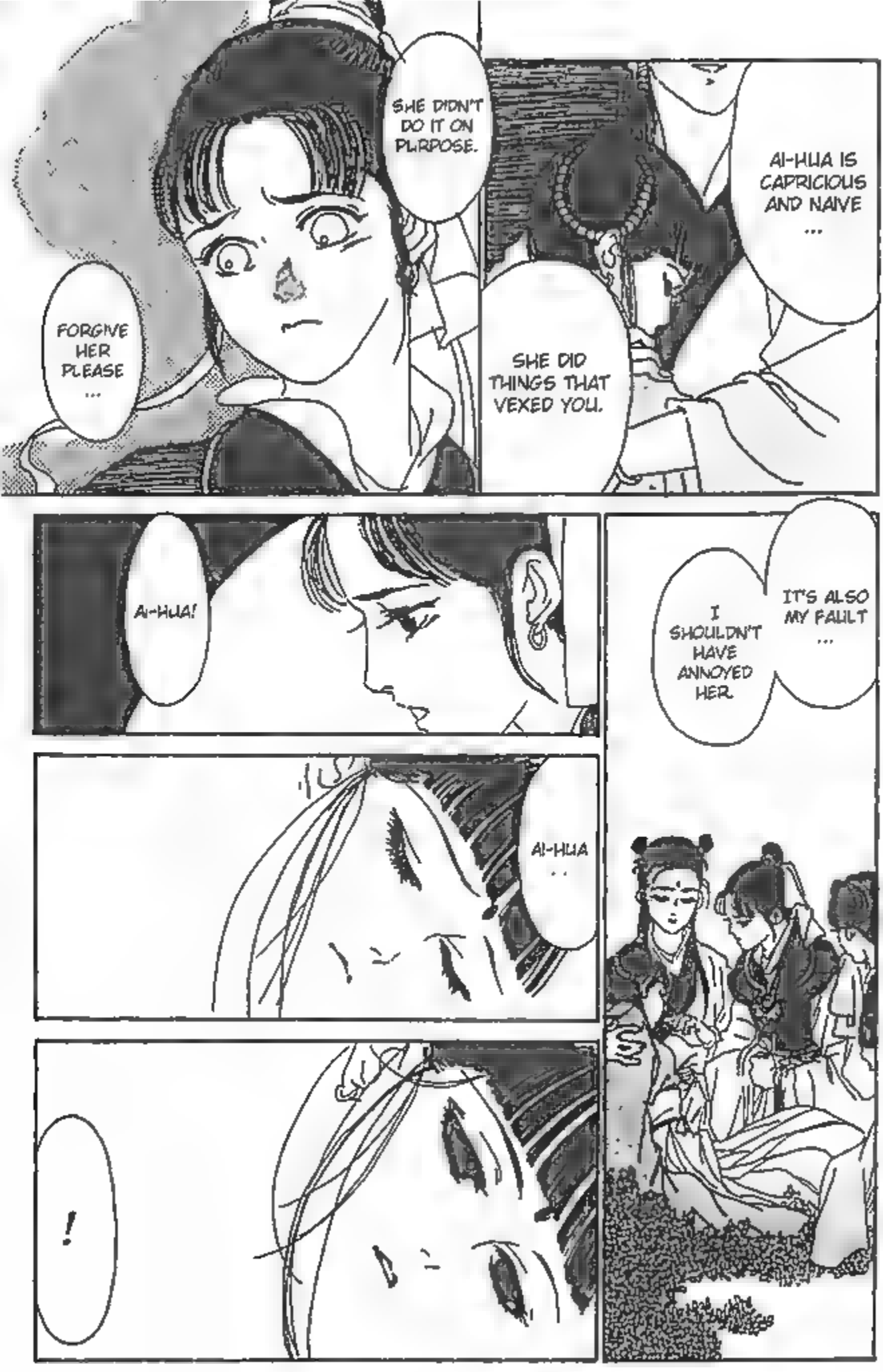
IT'S HIM!
If I asked him to forgive me.
Would he forgive me?
RU...
.....
!
I'm worrying useelessly.
There isn't any danger.
My heart is beating quickly and I'm suddenly very scared.
It's odd... My feet aren't moving forward anymore.

I can't miss this opportunity to repent. Otherwise it'll be too late.
The goddess will come searching for me and she won't allow me to come down to Earth anymore.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ...
WHY?
I will loose sight of him
He is going away
My legs
They are frozen
I want to go up to him
But I'm afraid to go over there
Wait
AH!

NOT THERE!
NO, AI-HUA!
AH!
AH!
LITTLE SISTER!
?!


ONLY YOU CAN HELP HER!
HELP!
SAVE THAT BUTTERFLY!
WHAT HAPP-ENED?
QUICKLY, YOU HAVE TO HELP HER OR SHE'LL DIE!
WH... WHY?
AI-HUA!

!
LITTLE SISTER
HOO
BOO
BOO HOO
SHE WANTED TO MAKE UP WITH YOU.
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! YOU HURT HER!
BOO ..
SHE SHOULD BE TREATED
AI-HUA
...
STOP, YOU'RE MAKING IT WORSE.
SHE'S LIKE THAT.
SPIDER VENOM IS FATAL...


SHE DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE.
FORGIVE HER PLEASE ...
AI-HUA IS CAPRICIOUS AND NAIVE ...
SHE DID THINGS THAT VEXED YOU.
AI-HUA!
IT'S ALSO MY FAULT ...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE ANNOYED HER.
AI-HUA ..
!

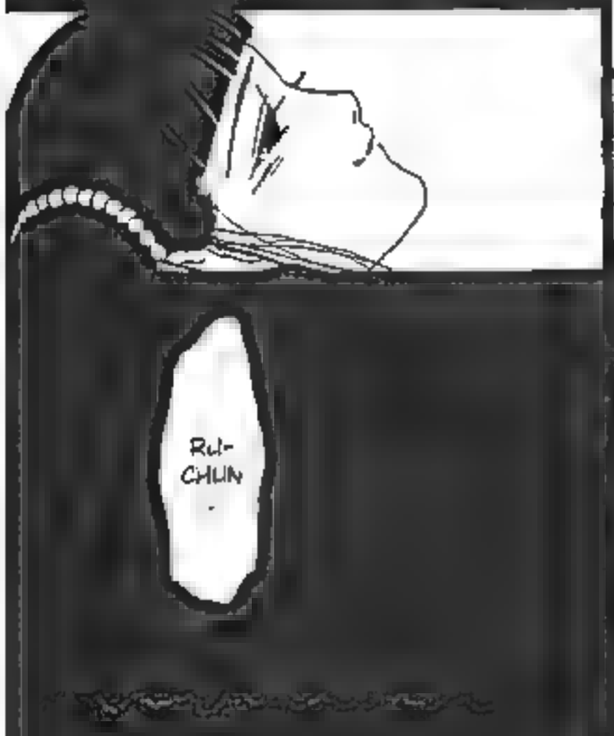
P.P.P...

AI-HUA

IT'S MY FAULT

SORRY

AI-HUA..



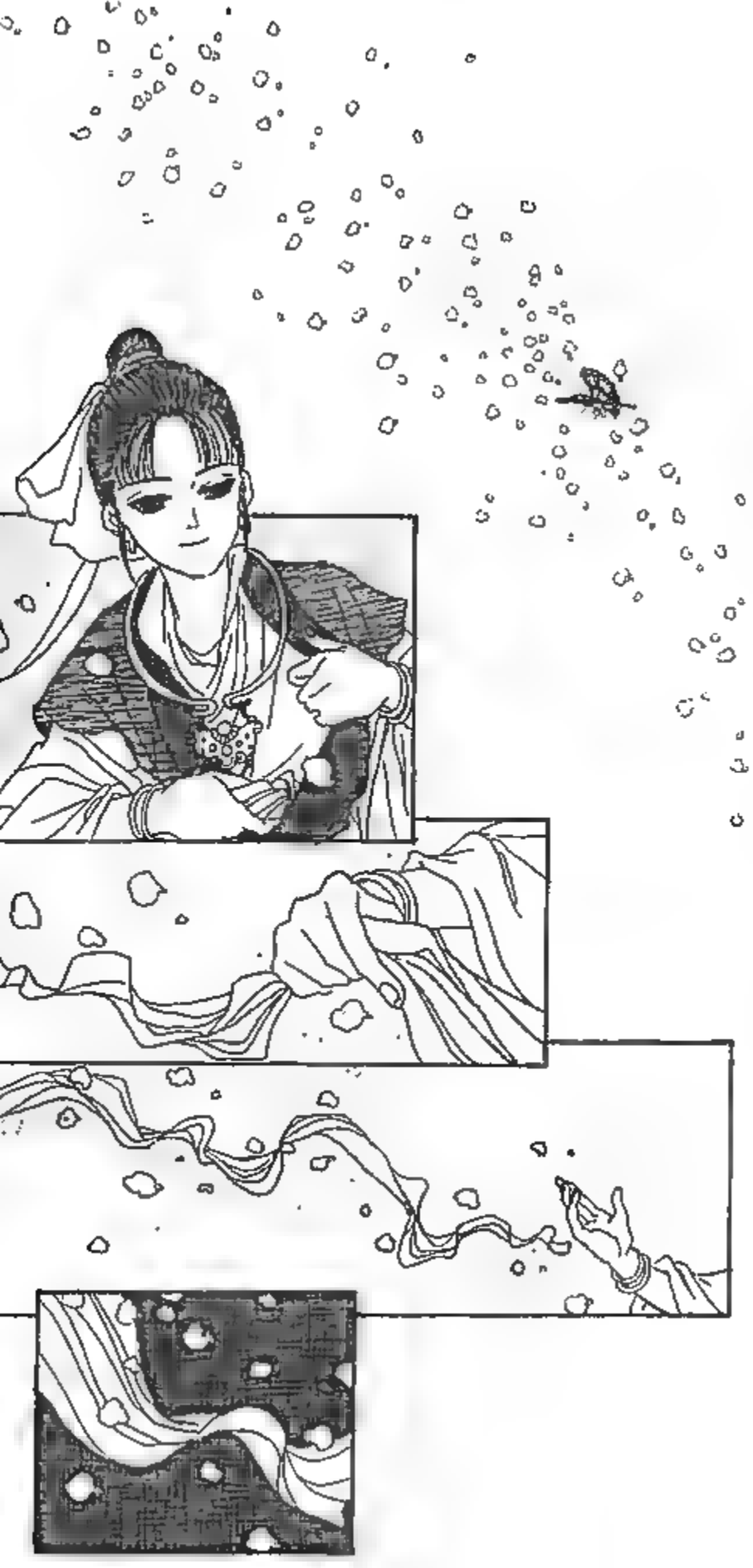
RU-CHUN

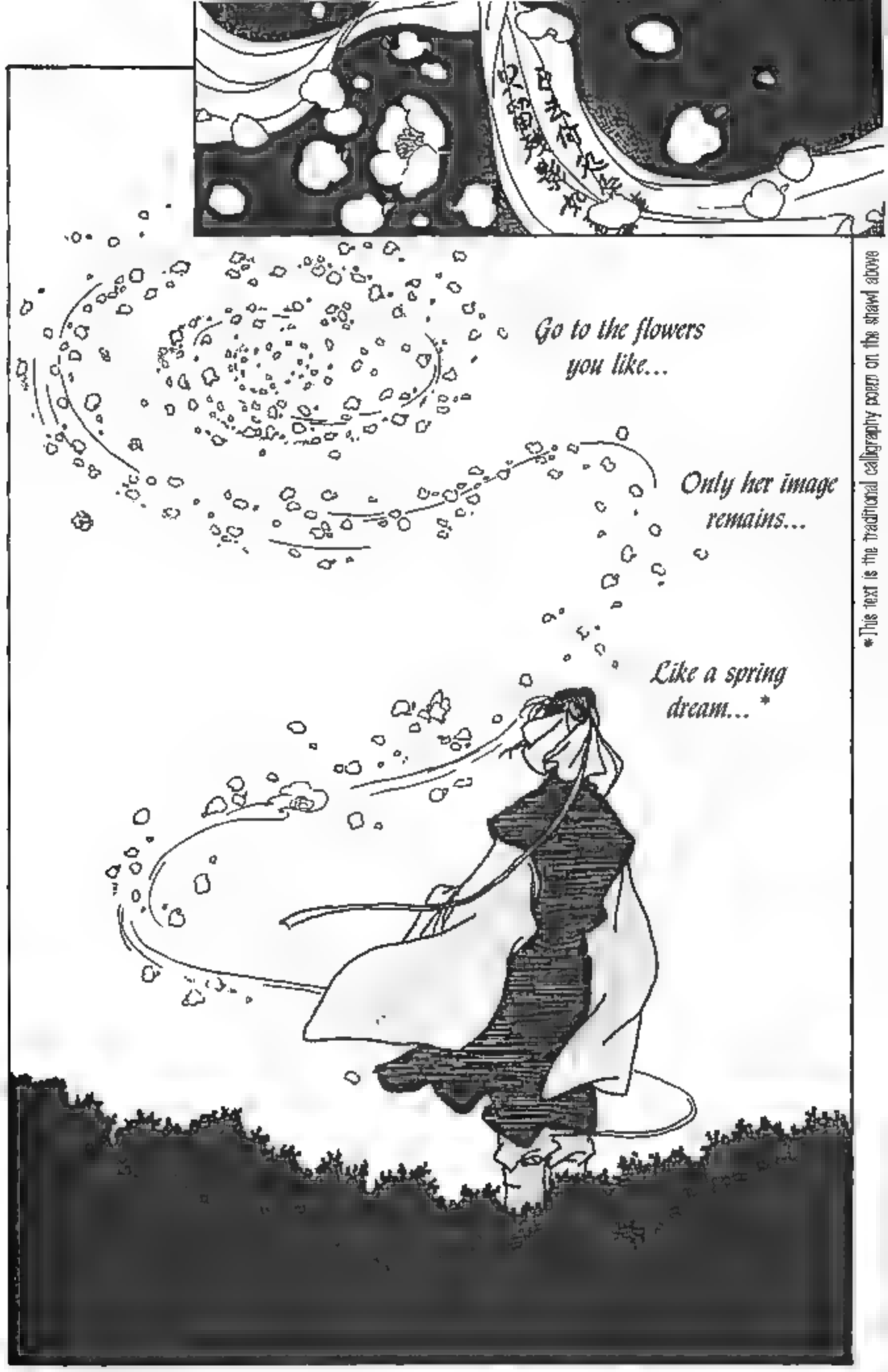
AI-HUA !!
AI-HUA !

AI-HUA CAN YOU BREATH?
CHIN UP.

DON'T LOOK!
WHAT ARE YOU WRITING?
YES.
WE RECON-CILED.
DID YOU SEE MISS BUTTERFLY AGAIN YESTERDAY?
IS IT A LOVE LETTER?
I'M LEAVING.
So it's agreed hm?
WE NEED TO BRING HER BACK TO OUR WORLD ...

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU...
WE'LL ASK THE WIND TO BLOW TOMORROW AT NOON.
BUT IT'S BETTER IF YOU DO IT.
APPROACHING NOON...!





*This text is the traditional calligraphy poem on the shawl above

PUSS IN BOOTS!

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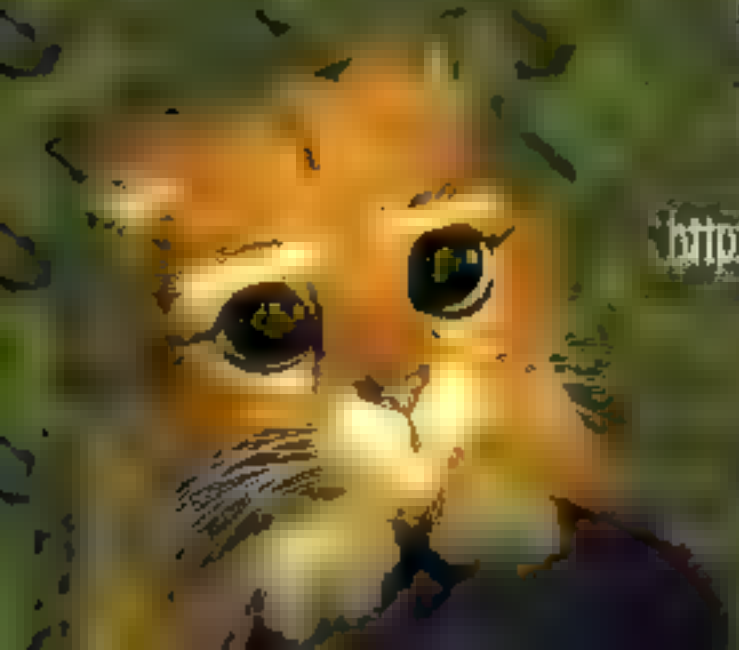

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Proofreader: ippy

Editor: scribblez08

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If you answered no then
We need your help to bring
this little critter alive
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A.K.A =WE NEED STAFFS

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IT'S A VERY DEEP VALLEY.

I HOPE TO HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO TRAVERSE IT BEFORE NIGHT-FALLS.

BRR!!

WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO HIM? YOU DON'T WANT TO ADVANCE ANYMORE?

NIGHT HAS IS FALLING, AND IF WE DON'T HASTEN OURSELVES

?

EH?

HER PAW ...

A TIGER!

YOU ARE WOUNDED ...

IT MUST HURT.

GEN-TEEL-LY!
THE WOUND IS DEEP, BUT WITH THIS IT WILL BE BETTER.
CHEEP!
HE IS CUTE!
HA HA HA ...
THIS TIGER IS CLEVER, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT I DON'T WANT TO DO HIM ANY HARM.
YOU CAN WALK?!
THAT IS IT?!

BE MORE CAUTIOUS IN THE FUTURE

GOODBYE!

BRUUN

EN ROUTE!

WHO'S THERE?
NIGHT HAVE FALLEN
IT'S FREEZING.
AND IT'S RAINING

IT'S TRULY KIND OF YOU TO WELCOME ME INTO YOUR HOME.

I HAD PLANNED TO SLEEP IN THE RAIN.

MY NAME IS CUI-LAN, AND I'M FROM NAN-AN.

HOLD ON, HERE IS SOME SAKE

FOR YOU TO WARM YOURSELF UP.

YES, MOTHER ...

I HAVE VERY LITTLE TO OFFER YOU; WE LIVE ALONE IN THESE MOUNTAINS.

HURRY CHILD.

HUANG-NIANG ...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCOMPANY ME?
IT'S AN INCONVEN-IENCE TO DRINK ALONE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
EXCUSE ME, I HOPE YOU DON'T TAKE OFFENSE
MISTER, SHE MUST NOT
BACK TO THE KITCHEN!
I COULD HAVE NEVER IMAGINED FINDING A XI-SHI* HERE
ONE WOULD HAVE SAID THAT SHE WAS OUTSIDE OF MY EXPECTATION

* XI-SHI - IN ANCIENT HISTORY, XI-SHI WAS KNOWN FOR HER BEAUTY. TODAY "XI-SHI" IS USE TO REFERENT A FEMALE OF GREAT BEAUTY.

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MISTER!

AH ...

YES?

NO, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE ...

MISTER ...

...

MADAM, DO YOU LIVE ALONE WITH THE YOUNG LADY?

THANK YOU.

PLEASE, JUST ACT LIKE IT'S YOUR HOME

OH ...

I ALSO HAVE A SON.

YES ...

BUT HE IS RARELY HERE

OKAA-SAN, I AM ALONE IN THE KITCHEN.
I'M FREE TO ATTEND TO OUR GUEST.
HUANG-NIANG, ARE YOU SPYING ON US?
MADAM ...
THAT'S NO WAY TO SPEAK IN FRONT OF OUR GUEST!
PLEASE PERMIT ME TO OFFER A GLASS TO YOUR DAUGHTER.
IT IS I WHO CAME TO DISRUPT YOUR PRIVACY.

BUT, I CAN RECITE SOME FROM THE TANG PERIOD

I'M NOT WELL-READ ENOUGH TO IMPROVISE ANY POEMS.

HOW DELICIOUS!

EXQUISITE! SAKE AND RAIN ARE WORTH MAKING THE SAKE BEFORE THE FLOWERING COUNTRYSIDE *

THE SWEET DRUNKENNESS IS LIKE A POEM.

?

MISTER CUI, YOU SEEM HAPPY. THE ALCOHOL HAS RENDERED YOU GAY

* IT'S A SAYING FROM THE CHINESE AND THE JAPANESE DRINKING SAKE IN ADMIRATION OF FLOWERS.

Old trees and rock turtles
Shatter slowly on the butterfly
Half awake - Half drunk
Three days of idleness
Li-Bai title of poem, "Temple of Shur xi"*
* WATER FROM THE WEST
Red and white flowers
Wilted under the adversity of the mountain.

CLANK

NI-SAN
...

WHO PERMITTED YOU TO ALLOW THAT MAN TO LODGE HERE?

?!

I WAS AFRAID THAT YOU WOULD HAVE ATTACKED HIM.

THE PEOPLE OF THE LOWER WORLD CANNOT DO ANYTHING AGAINST ME!

AND WHAT?

YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THAT I'M THE SON OF HEAVEN?

NII-SAN.

IF YOU CONTINUE THUS, YOU WILL BE MORE AND MORE DETESTED AND...

OH GOOD, I'M HERE NOW ...

IMOUTO ..

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ASSIST IN HIS DEATH, LEAVE HERE!

IMOUTO ...

Oh!!

That man is a bandit?!

IT IS HARD TO FORGET THE TASTE OF FRESH FLESH.

NII-SAN, I BEG YOU!

IMOUTO!

NO!

HUH?!

I WILL PROTECT HIM WITH MY LIFE!

...

WHY?

WHY DO YOU ACT THUS ...?

I fell into a nest of bandits, but she saved me.

SHE LOOKS PAINED BECAUSE OF HER BROTHER'S ATTITUDE.

WHEN WE FIRST MET

IT'S DESTINY.

Well ...

I must rescue her from this situation!

OBAASAN, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY.
YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
YES
BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK A FAVOR FROM YOU.
YOUR DAUGHTER IS QUITE CHARMING.
YOU MIGHT FIND ME A LITTLE HASTY, BUT I WISH TO MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER.
YOUR PROPOSITION IS HONORABLE, BUT MY DAUGHTER IS A COUNTRY GIRL.
SHE IS NOT EDUCATED LIKE THE WOMEN OF THE CITY
I ALSO COME FROM THE COUNTRY-SIDE
PLEASE AGREE!

IF THAT IS WHAT HE WISHES, I CONSENT TO BE HIS WIFE

I'M LEAVING WITH HIM.

BUT

OKAASAN!

THE CITY LIFE WILL NOT SUIT YOU.

LITTLE BAKA ...

HA HA HA HA !

LITTLE MOUSE

I WILL ADAPT

SHE CAN DECIDE WHERE HER HAPPINESS WILL L.E.

YOU WON'T BE AS HAPPY THERE AS YOU ARE HERE.

DON'T LEAVE .

DON'T MIX YOURSELF IN THIS.

LOOK HERE, YOU THINK THAT I IGNORE ALL OF YOUR WORRIES?

YOU'RE WORSE THAN A TIGER THAT KILLS FOR FOOD.

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A BRUTE THAT KILLS THE INNOCENTS.

HOW'S THAT?

LIVING AMONGST MEN, YOU'LL ONLY BRING SHAME TO MAN.

HUMAN, THE GOD GAVE US OUR LAWS.
HOW COULD THEY PERMIT YOU TO JUDGE RIGHT FROM WRONG?
YOU HEAR THAT?
HUMANS ARE LIKE THIS.
YOU DON'T HAVE THE SAME VALOR.
IF YOU LEAVE WITH HIM, YOU WILL REGRET IT
I WILL NOT REGRET ANYTHING.
AS LONG AS WE ARE TOGETHER.

I AGREE.
AND NEVER PASS THROUGH THE VILLAGES AT THE FOOT OF THIS MOUNTAIN
DO NOT TALK ABOUT WHERE I COME FROM
I WILL NO LONGER BE YOUR WIFE, IF THESE CONDITIONS ARE BROKEN.
BUT ..
YOU HAVE TO PROMISE ME TWO THINGS..
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU AGREED.
WE KNOW EACH OTHER WELL
I AM GENTLE WITH PRETTY GIRLS.
DON'T COMPLI-MENT ME ...
HA HA HA ...
He's really ...
BECAUSE OF THAT, I HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE WITH YOU.
YOU ARE A GOOD MAN ..

I'M GLAD THAT YOU BELIEVE IN ME.
I HOPE I'LL BE ABLE TO MEASURE UP TO YOUR STANDARDS.
SOONER OR LATER, HE WILL DECEIVE HER.
I MUST MOVE QUICKLY.
SHE'S ALWAYS HOTHEADED ...
SHE WILL RETURN!
...

YOU DON'T KNOW? THERE'S A DANGEROUS TIGER UP THERE!
YES, WHY?
YOU TWO .
YOU HAVE BEEN TRAVELING ALONE?
EH?
EVERYDAY WE FORM A GROUP TO MARCH THROUGH THE FOREST AT A FIXED TIME
THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO TIGERS; THEY ATTACK US AND DEVOUR OUR LIVESTOCK IT'S A REAL PROBLEM!
YOU'RE JUST LUCKY IT WAS PROBABLY NOT HUNGRY
!
I CAME ACROSS A TIGER . BUT IT DIDN'T ATTACK ME
THERE MUST BE A MISTAKE

ANATA*=YOU BUT MEANS DARLING. DEAR IN THIS CONTEXT

YOUKAI*=SPIRIT

I... I BELIEVE THAT SHE'S A TIGER YOUKAI*

Baka! That's my wife!

What are you doing?!

TO BEJING

TO PASS THE MILITARY EXAM.

LEAVE US!

WE ARE IN A HURRY!

MISTER,

PLEASE HELP US HUNT DOWN THE TIGERS.

A FUTURE SOILDER!!

THEN YOU MUST HAVE MASTERED ARCHERY.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

YOU . YOU .

THERE HAS BEEN DEATH!

NOT YOUR PROMBLEM?!

AT LEAST DON'T PROTECT THE TIGERS

ANATA, LET'S GET BACK TO THE ROAD ..

IT'S NOT OUR AFFAIR.

STOP TALKING NONSENSE! OR I'... HIT YOU!!

A.Again

WAIT FOR ME HERE.

HUANG -NIANG ...

THEN IT WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A BOTHER IF YOU KILL THE TIGERS.

A FUTURE SOLDIER MUST PROTECT THE PEOPLE.

IF I REFUSE TO HELP THEM, I WILL BE DISHONORED.
THE TIGERS ONLY ATTACK THE VILLAGERS SOMETIMES,
BUT THEY HAVE NOT HARMED YOU. WHY KILL THEM TODAY, WHEN YESTERDAY YOU HEALED ONE?
AND YOUR PROMISE . . .
OF NOT STOPPING AT THE VILLAGE?
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME? DON'T WORRY!
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF
I ...I WILL NO LONGER FOLLOW YOU.
IF YOU HUNT THE TIGERS
PERSONALLY, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST THE TIGERS...
BUT AFTER HEARING THE RECOUNTS OF THEIR EVIL DEEDS AGAINST THE VILLAGERS...
I CAN'T LET THEM CONTINUE, THEY MUST BE STOPPED!

If it is this dangerous, how can Huang-Niang's family defend themselves here?
It's strange?
And how can Huang-Niang ...
know that yesterday I helped a tiger?
!!
THE TIGER FROM YESTERDAY DIDN'T SEEM AGGRESSIVE ...

DUH!
Could this be the tiger from yesterday?
Watch out!
GRR!!

SPRING!
SAX
!

AGH!!

OH!
THIS TIGER... HE SEEMS ROBUST TO BE ABLE TO RUN WITH THAT WOUND.
SSHH
BUT HE WILL NOT ESCAPE ME!

HAVE YOU SEEN A TIGER?
HAVE ..
OKAA-SAN!
HE WAS WOUNDED ...
BY MY ARROW...AND THE TRACK OF HIS BLOOD LEADS TO HERE...
ONII-CHAN!
Don't approach!
You!

WELL, HE'S DYING!

YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF YOURSELF!

NOW LEAVE THE MOUNTAIN!

YOU CAME TO FIGHT THE TIGER

DON'T ... EVER FORGET ... THAT!

MY SISTER'S COUNTING ON YOU ..

OH KAMI-SAMA .. WE WELCOMED YOU.

WHY... WHY DID YOU HAVE TO KILL MY SON?

NO! ONII-CHAN?

HE'S THE TIGER?! HE'S

WHY?

OH!

GRRR

AH

AH!

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

THIS IS JUST LIKE A NIGHTMARE.

IT WOULD BE .

IF THE BLOOD THAT IS SPILT ISN'T FROM A DREAM...

YOU WALKED ALL THE WAY HERE BY YOURSELF?

HUANG -NIANG ...

THOSE WHOM YOU CALL "KAASAN" AND "NIISAN" THEY HAVE TURNED INTO TIGERS.

WHAT IS GOING ON?

IT'S A ROUTE THAT I KNOW WELL

AND YOU

YOU'RE ALSO

THOSE BANDAGES ..

SO IT WAS YOU!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

THAT SWORD

!

AH

WAIT, HUANG-NIANG!

HUANG-NIANG!

HUANG-NIANG

DON'T FOLLOW ME!

THE RESULT IS THAT WHICH YOU'VE SOUGHT FOR!

YOU CAME HERE TO KILL THE TIGERS TO SAVE YOUR KIND, ISN'T THAT SO?

WHY DO YOU WANT TO REPAIR YOUR FAULTS?

I HAVEN'T DONE WHAT YOU WANTED ME TO!

HOW CAN I PARDON MYSELF?! I TOOK THE LIVES OF OUR FAMILY!

I NO LONGER WANT YOU ANYMORE.

YOU HAVE DONE WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS JUST;

I CAN NO LONGER LEAVE WITH YOU; OUR PATH WILL SEPARATE HERE

IN THE NAME OF OUR LOVE, LEAVE THIS MOUNTAIN.

I COULD HAVE NEVER IMAGINE THAT . YOU'RE. A TIGER

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT HUMAN, I...

BUT IF YOU FORGIVE ME

BEFORE I FEEL THE NEED TO SEEK REVENGE FOR MY KAASAN AND NIISAN..

YOU'RE STILL HERE?!

...

ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME AS WELL?

YES.

I HAVE TO ELIMINATE YOU! YOU'VE CAUSED A LOT OF HAVOC!

I AM HUMAN!

COME OUT OF THERE, TIGER!

...
Well?
YOU ARE NOT GOING TO ATTACK ME?
AM YOUR ENEMY
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING, THEN YOU'RE GOING TO DIE INSTEAD

YOU CAN

LET YOUR FAMILY'S MURDERER STAY ALIVE?

WE ARE MARRIED

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS A REASON TO KILL.

I CAN'T

IF WE HADN'T PASSED BY THAT VILLAGE ..

SHOULD HAVE LISENED TO YOU .

IT'S TOO LATE NOW .

...

NOW, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I NO LONGER DESERVE TO BE NEAR HER.

LEFT THE MOUNTAIN.

THUS, I STAYED HERE TO LOOK AFTER HUANG-NIANG, SO THAT SHE WOULD NOT BE KILLED

BUT I DID NOT GO TO BEIJING, I JOINED A SMALL, LOCAL ARMY HERE FOR MORE THAN 10 YRS. NOW

THIS IS THE WAY THAT I CHOOSE TO LIVE

BUT HAVE NOT DONE IT ...

BUT...IF HUANG-NIANG EVER ATTACKS THE VILLAGERS...

I WILL BE THE ONE TO PUT AN END TO HER DAYS.

YES, YOU CAN SAY THAT.

HA! HA! HA!

YOU PROTECT THE TIGERS FROM THE HUMANS INSTEAD OF THE OPPOSITE?

Since then, Huang-Niang has never appeared before me again,

but if I call out "Huang-Niang" she'll respond to me.

THAT'S UNREAL

BUT A TIGER THAT TRANSFORMS INTO A HUMAN

A TIGER THAT RESPONDS TO YOU.... HA HA HA SHE KNOWS THAT YOU WORRY ABOUT HER.

ANICENT STORIES ARE SIMILAR TO DREAMS.

BUT I ALWAYS HOPE THAT SOMEDAY SHE WILL SHOW HERSELF IN HER HUMAN FORM AGAIN

IN THIS WORLD, ALL THINGS ARE CHANCE ENCOUNTERS... THE ANIMALS KNOW MORE THAN THE HUMANS

OH

FRR

FRR

HOLD ON

BY THE BUDDHA AMITHABA ...

EVEN IF SHE IS A TIGER, SHE DOESN'T HAVE A DANGEROUS AURA.

THANK YOU, MISS.

HE IS CUTE YOUR DISIPLINE.

IF YOU ARE TRAVERSING THE MOUNTAIN, PLEASE LET ME OFFER YOU SOMETHING TO EAT ON THE WAY *

*MEALS OF MONE

MAYBE SHE'S A TIGER.

MISTER,

CRY OF THE TIGER-END

Hana no Koe chapter 4

(Shoujo Crusade)

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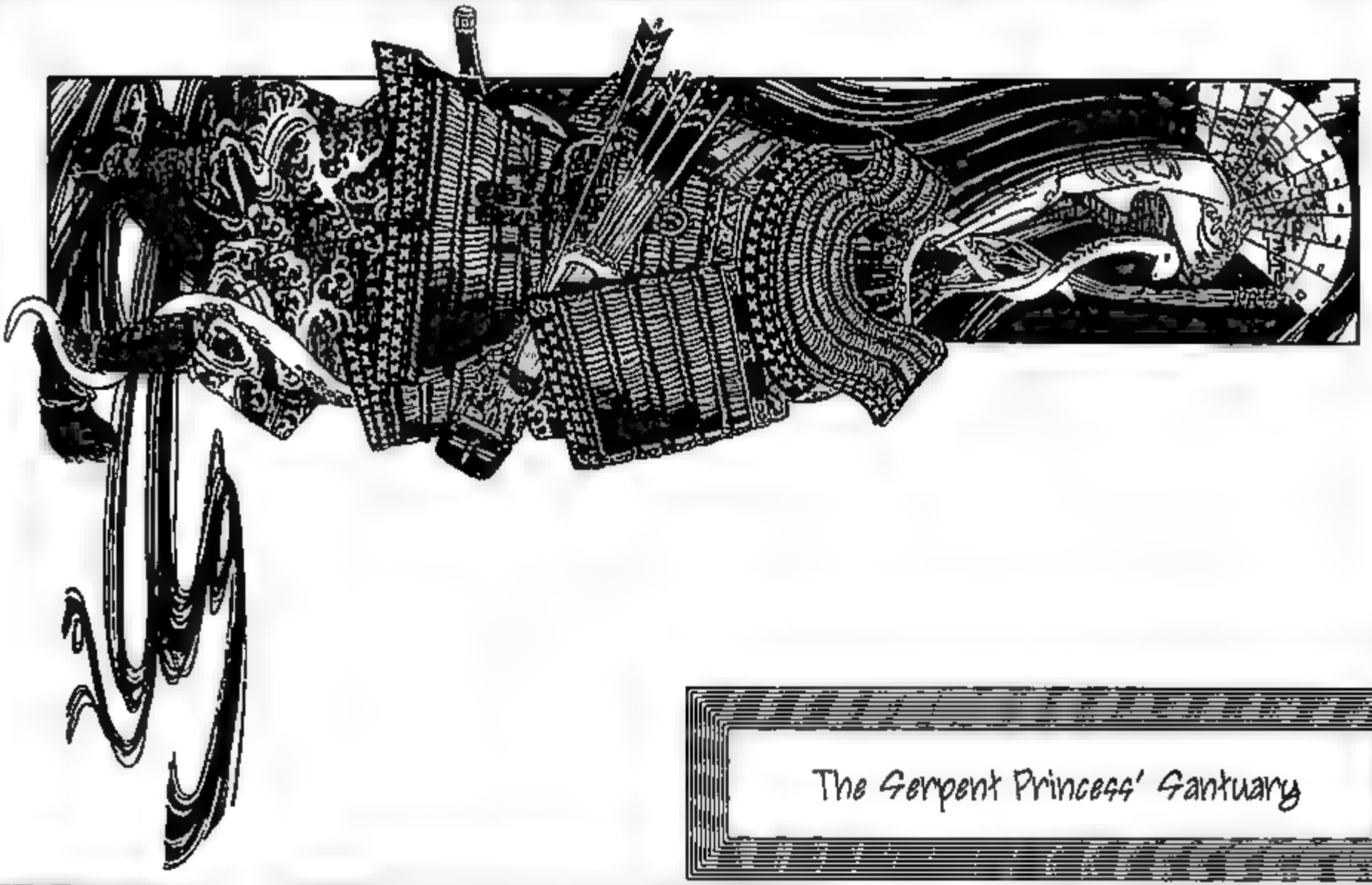


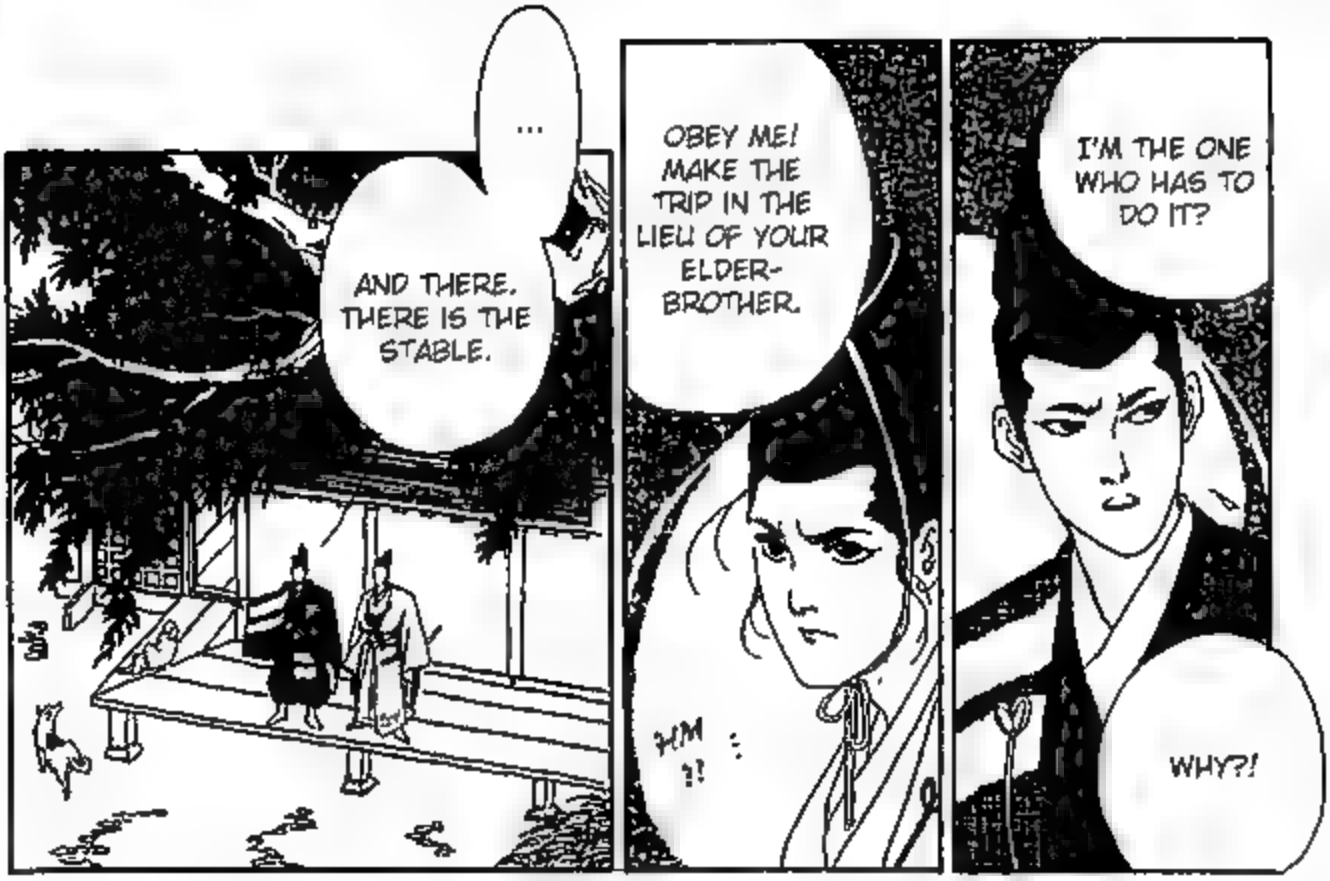
The Serpent Princess' Sanctuary

UNT.L I WAS TH.RTEEN YEARS OLD, I D.DN'T KNOW ABOUT MY PARENTS AND THE REASON WHY I WAS EXILED
I HAVE ALWAYS LIVED .N THIS TEMPLE, DEEP IN THESE MOUNTAINS
FROM THIS OCCURENCE, I LEARNED THAT THIS MAN, MASAH.RA HOSHINA WAS MY FATHER.
YET, ONE DAY, A FAMIL.AR LOOK.NG SAMURAI CAME TO PAY US A VISIT.

WHY DID YOU SEND ME HERE?
LIFE IN THE HOSHINA HOUSE IS FULL OF DAMAGING INTRIGUES.
FOR YOUR OWN GOOD ...
I WANTED YOU TO THINK THAT... TO CUT OFF ALL YOUR TIES WITH THE HOSHINA FAMILY.
I THOUGHT I DIDN'T HAVE A FATHER OR MOTHER.
IT'S BETTER FOR THE HOSHINA NAME TO DIE OUT LIKE THIS.
NEVER LEAVE THIS TEMPLE.
FORGET THE HOSHINAS FOREVER.
YOU HAVE TO LIVE YOUR LIFE WITHOUT ANY CONCERN FOR US. THE CYCLE OF THE SACRIFICES MUST END...

THREE YEARS LATER, A MESSENGER FROM HOSHINA CAME TO LOOK FOR ME FOLLOWING MY FATHER'S RECCOMENDATION
IS THIS THE LAST WISH OF A FATHER WHO SENSED HE WAS GOING TO DIE AND CAME TO SEE HIS SON FOR THE FIRST AND LAST TIME?
HIS REMARKS WERE MYSTERIOUS AND I BLAMED H.M FOR KEEPING ME AWAY FROM MY FAMILY
BUT SINCE THE HOSHINA HEAD IS DEAD AND YOU ARE HIS ONLY DESCENDANT, YOU WILL HAVE TO SUCCEED HIM.
THAT'S TOO BAD. I WANTED TO PROCLAIM YOU AS A MONK THIS YEAR. I WOULD HAVE MADE YOU A GREAT BUDDH ST MONK.
I'M READY!
MASTER ATSU-H RA?
YOU ARE READY FOR THE JOURNEY ...

IT'S ME ATSUHIRA. I'VE RETURNED.
UNCLE, MOTHER ...
UUH
MOTHER ..
ATSUHIRA ..
MASTER MASATOSHI, YOU MAY LEAVE.
!
WELCOME HOME!
STARTING TODAY, YOU WILL BE THE MASTER OF THE HOSHINA FAMILY. TRY TO CONDUCT YOURSELF AS YOU SHOULD.
YOSHIHIRA IS MAKING A TRIP TO THE ATSUHIRA ESTATE.
MY BRO-THER?!
HERE, YOUR BROTHER IS CALLED YOSHIHIRA, HE'S YOUNGER THAN YOU BY ONE YEAR.


...
AND THERE. THERE IS THE STABLE.
OBEY ME! MAKE THE TRIP IN THE LIEU OF YOUR ELDER-BROTHER.
HM ?!
I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO DO IT?
WHY?!

YES!
SO YOU ARE CALLED YOSHIHIRA, AND YOU ARE THE SON OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER?

I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD A YOUNGER BROTHER. I THOUGHT I HAD TO RETURN TO THIS PROFANE WORLD BECAUSE I WAS THE ONLY DESCENDANT.

AH ...
THEY DIDN'T THINK THAT MONK RYO-E WOULDN'T AUTHORIZE YOU TO LEAVE THE TEMPLE IF IT WASN'T LIKE THAT.
FATHER MADE THE DECISION TO SEND YOU TO THE TEMPLE AGAINST THE ADVICE OF THE REST OF THE FAMILY.
BUT, SINCE YOU ARE HERE, THEY HAVE A SUCCESSOR... THEN WHY DID I HAVE TO RETURN?
MOREOVER, WE KNEW THAT FATHER WAS GOING TO DIE BECAUSE HE BROKE THE LAWS OF THE HOSHINAS ...
YOSHIHIRA!
YES ...
THEY INTENDED TO BRING YOU BACK BEFORE YOUR EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY.
MY FATHER?
THEN... IF HE HADN'T DIED YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO LOOK FOR ME?

ARE YOU FINISHED TOURING THE ESTATE?
WHO ASKED YOU TO TALK ABOUT THOSE THINGS?
ATSUHIRA!
YOU WILL KNOW ABOUT IT WHEN THE TIME COMES.
YOSHIHIRA, WHAT DID YOU SAY? THE LAWS OF THE HOSHINAS?
!

WHY DID YOU LEAVE YOUR BEDROOM?!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU NOT TO COME HERE!
MIYAKO!
UNCLE, WHO IS THAT GIRL?
HOW RARE
SOR-SORRY ...
...
SHE'S YOUR TWIN SISTER.
...

BROTHER ATSUHIRA?
AH...
IT'S HIM...
MY SISTER
!
AH!
MIYAKO, COME HERE!

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
IT'S SAID THAT A CURSE WILL BEAT US DOWN IF WE APPROACH IT.
THIS PLACE IS CALLED THE "WHITE PALACE". BE CAREFUL ...
SHE MUST NOT COME HERE.
WHY IS HE SO VEXED?
HOW BRUTAL!
...
I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT CURSE?
COMING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN, I WAS IN A HURRY TO MEET MY FAMILY.
BUT EVERYONE HERE IS SO COLD AND ALOOF.
ALL OF THIS IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I IMAGINED

IT'S SAD HERE..
I AM
MIYAKO ...
IT'S YOU, BIG BROTHER!
I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD FIND YOU HERE!

YES. THE ONLY TIME FATHER CAME TO VISIT ME, HE TOLD ME THAT I HAD A TWIN BROTHER.
DID YOU KNOW OF MY EXISTENCE?
I WAS ADOPTED BY A NOBLE FAMILY IN THE CAPITAL.
THEN HE ALSO WENT TO SEE YOU...
YES...
MY FOSTER PARENTS ALWAYS TREATED ME WELL AND I WAS HURT TO LEARN THE TRUTH.
That is how I found out where I came from
When I was three years old, our father came to visit me
IT HAPPENED LIKE THAT FOR ME, TOO.
YET, WHEN A COURIER CAME I WANTED TO SEE MY REAL FAMILY.
HE MADE ME SWEAR THAT I WOULD NEVER RETURN TO THE HOSHINA HOUSE.

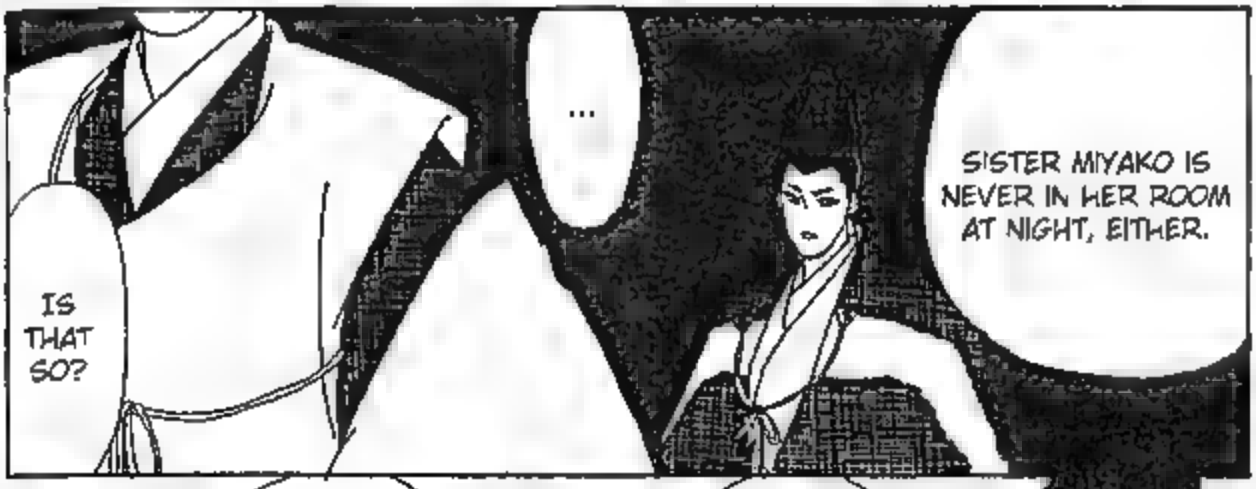
THEY LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M A STRANGE CREATURE.
ESPECIALLY YOSHIHIRA. HIS LOOKS ARE UNRELENTING AND FULL OF CONTEMPT.
SOMETIMES, HE OBSERVES ME WHEN I'M IN MY ROOM.
I WANT TO RETURN TO MY FOSTER PARENTS' HOUSE.
THE PEOPLE HERE SCARE ME.
HE MUST BE FASCINATED BY HIS OLDER SISTER.
ME TOO. I WAS STRUCK BY YOUR BEAUTY.
...
IF HE SEES US, I RISK GETTING SCOLD.
BUT ...
OUR UNCLE BANNED ME FROM SEEING YOU.
I DON'T KNOW WHY.
I DON'T LIKE THIS FAMILY, EITHER.

I'M SAD... SO SAD.
I ASK MYSELF WHY THEY MADE US COME BACK.
I THINK THEY'RE HIDING SOMETHING.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I HAD A TWIN SISTER.
AND YOU'RE HERE FOR ME.
FROM NOW ON, I'M HERE FOR YOU.
OK!
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
MIYAKO, MEET ME IN SECRET TOMORROW NIGHT HERE, AT THE SAME PLACE.
...

BIG BRO-THER!
WHAT IS IT?
AHH!
I STROLL IN THE GARDEN, WHY?
IT WAS JUST A QUESTION.
WHAT DO YOU DO AT NIGHT?
I NEVER SEE YOU IN YOUR ROOM.
!
YOSHIHIRA, DON'T MOVE!

WHAT?!
IT'S BANNED!
NO!
I JUST WANTED TO CHASE HIM AWAY, NOT KILL HIM!
UNCLE SAID TO NEVER ATTACK A SNAKE. THEY'RE THE DEAD ANCESTORS OF THE HOSHINA FAMILY .
SNAKES ?
IT'S SINISTER JUST LIKE OUR LINEAGE.
...
Oof, it is!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO IMPLY?
...
!
AH WELL...IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING?
I THOUGHT THAT THAT REPULSIVE ANIMAL WOULD PLEASE YOU.

BY THE WAY...
ABOUT YOUR NOCTURNAL OUTINGS ..
...
NOTH-ING ..
IN PARTICULAR ..
Wham


...
SISTER MIYAKO IS NEVER IN HER ROOM AT NIGHT, EITHER.
IS THAT SO?

LOOK! IT'S FOR YOU!
...

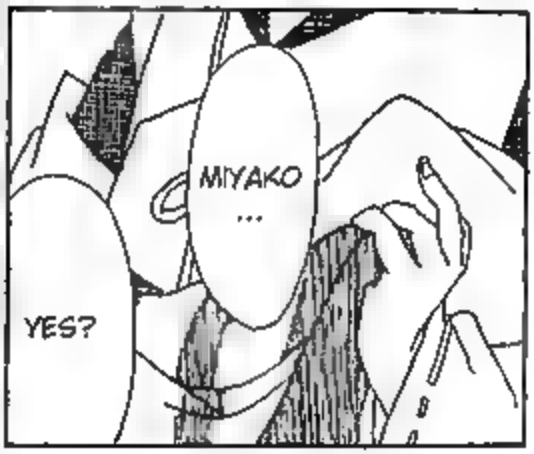
YES! I WAS TERRIBLY BORED DURING THE DAY SO I READ OR STITCH.
WOW... WERE YOU THE ONE WHO MADE IT?

BUT... IT WAS A LITTLE DIFFICULT SINCE I KNOW WE'LL MEET AT NIGHT.

...
WHY?

I THINK WE SHOULD STOP SEEING EACH OTHER.

...

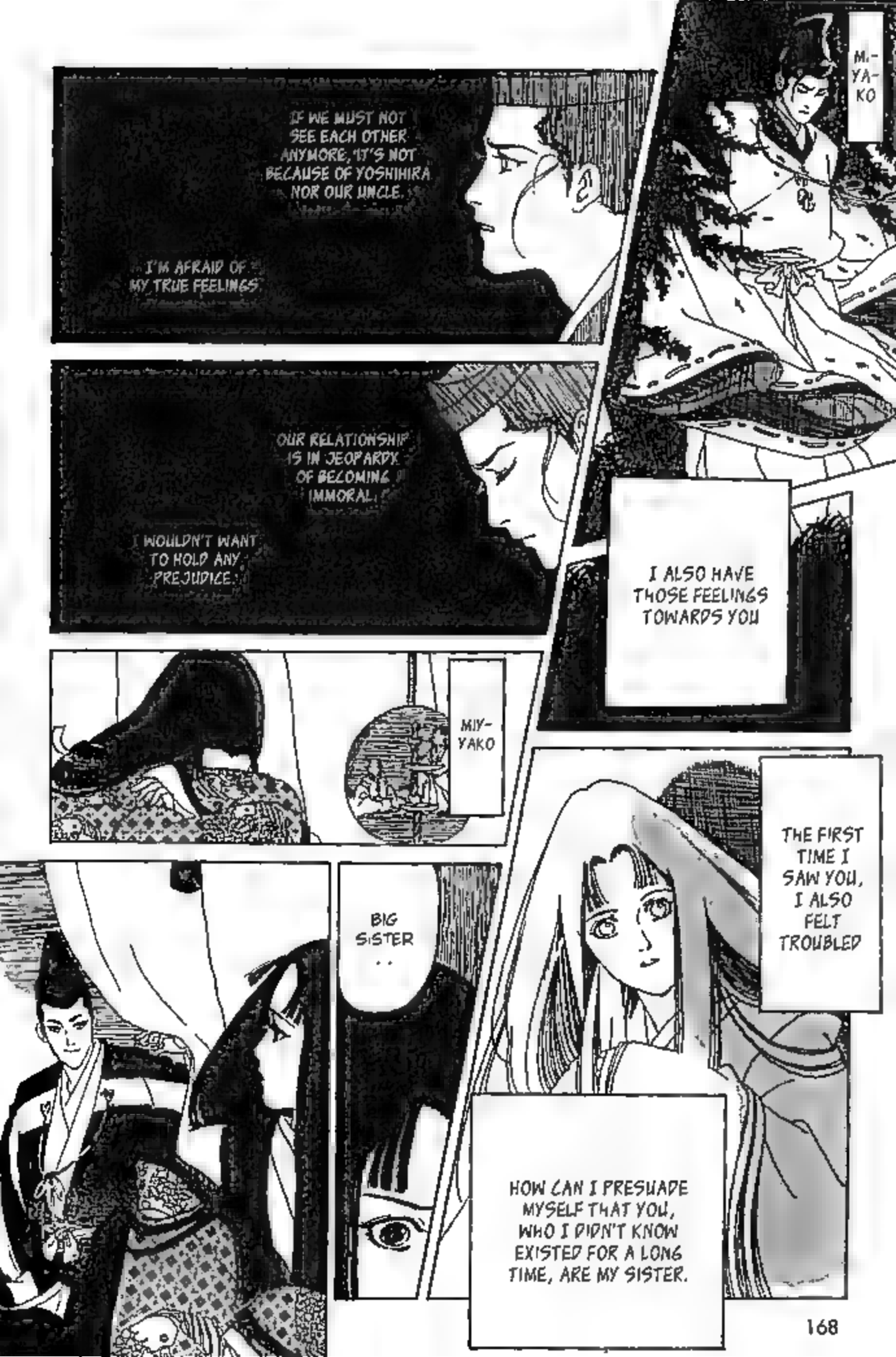

MIYAKO
...
YES?

NO!!
BUT IF HE TELLS UNCLE, YOU WILL BE PUNISHED.
YOSHIHIRA LEARNED ABOUT OUR RENDEZVOUS.
BUT WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING BAD!
I DON'T CARE!
MIYAKO!
IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL IF HE YELLS AT ME!
MIYA...
DEATH IS THE ONLY THING THAT IS WORSE THAN NOT SEEING YOU!
BECAUSE ...

ME TOO... YOU ARE MY DEAR SISTER.
I...
I LIKE YOU MORE THAN THE WORLD.
!
DON'T CALL ME SISTER ...
MIYAKO ..
IF I'D STAYED IN MY ROOM, I WOULDN'T HAVE MET YOU.
I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO OUR UNCLE.

MIYAKO
..
BUT WITH TIME, I DISCOVERED THE TRUE NATURE OF MY FEELINGS.
I FIRST THOUGHT IT WAS A FAMILIAR SENSATION...
THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU, MY HEART FILLED A VERY STRONG FEELING.
I COULD NEVER CALL YOU "MY BROTHER" ...
MIYAKO
STOP TALKING ABOUT IT...
...

BUT INSTEAD, IT TIRES ME OUT.
I THOUGHT THAT TALKING ABOUT IT LIKE THIS WOULD MAKE ME FEEL BETTER...
I'M THE WRONG ONE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONSOLE ME.
SO, I CAN'T RESPOND TO YOUR FEELINGS.
I KNOW THAT...
MIYAKO
WE ARE BLOOD SIBLINGS.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE ME ANYMORE I UNDESRTAND.
BUT DON'T HATE ME PLEASE.
GOOD NIGHT ...


IF WE MUST NOT SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE, IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF YOSHIHIRA NOR OUR UNCLE.
I'M AFRAID OF MY TRUE FEELINGS.
MI-YA-KO
OUR RELATIONSHIP IS IN JEOPARDY OF BECOMING IMMORAL.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO HOLD ANY PREJUDICE.
I ALSO HAVE THOSE FEELINGS TOWARDS YOU
MIY-YAKO
THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU, I ALSO FELT TROUBLED
BIG SISTER . .
HOW CAN I PRESUADE MYSELF THAT YOU, WHO I DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED FOR A LONG TIME, ARE MY SISTER.

YOSHIHIRA?
I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
TOMORROW YOU WILL NO LONGER BE HERE.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
CAN I?
OUR UNCLE WILL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU, BUT LET'S CHAT ON THE BED ...
HOW?
IT'S ALREADY LATE, MAYBE TOMORROW ...
PERVERT?
...
LET GO OF ME, FILTHY PERVERT!!
!!
NO!
YOU'RE MORE OF A PERVERT! WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR BLOOD BROTHER EVERY NIGHT?
?!
IS IT THE IMPURE BLOOD THAT FLOWS IN YOUR VEINS THAT TIE YOU TOGETHER?

WHY STAY IN THE HOUSE? IT'S AN IDEAL DAY FOR HUNTING! YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST COME ALONG WITH ME!
AH, THAT'S NICE BUT ...
...
BROTHER, WANT TO HUNT GAME?
YOU RARELY ASK ME TO GO ON AN OUTING, IT'S INTERESTING THOUGH.
I'VE NEVER HUNTED BEFORE IN THE TEMPLE, KILLING ANIMALS IS FORBIDDEN.
YOU'RE GIFTED AT HUNTING!
NO... IT'S LUCK!
BEAUTIFUL CATCH!
HEE! HEE!

OH!
THE SCAR ON YOUR CHEEK ...
AH... THIS?
HA HA, IT'S A SECRET.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
NOT REALLY, GO ON.
IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, YOU MUST BE MAD.
CONGRATULATIONS!
YESTERDAY NIGHT I HAD A GIRL WHO I'D DESIRED FOR A LONG TIME.
AND YOU KNOW HER!
WHO COULD IT BE?
I WILL SAY IT...
HER NAME IS MIYAKO.

IS THIS A JOKE?
YOU LOOK WRETCHED... LIKE A DECIEVED HUSBAND!
YOUR TWIN SISTER ...
DO YOU KNOW WHO I'M TALKING ABOUT?
!
IF YOU WANT I CAN TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED IN DETAIL.
"JOKE"? HOWEVER, SHE'S THE ONE WHO SCRATCHED ME...
YOU ARE VERY CLOSE TO HER, TOO! YOUR EMBRACE WASN'T FRATERNAL AT ALL ...
WHO IS THE MONSTER?!
YOU...YOU'RE A MONSTER!
YOUR OWN SISTER!!

IF YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING BAD, WHY DID YOU ALWAYS SEE EACH OTHER AT NIGHT IN SECRET? BESIDES, IT'S TOO LATE FOR REGRETS.
HMM!
HOW BOLD! NOTHING EVER HAPPENED!!
YES, MY MOTHER, WHO YOU ALSO CALL "MOTHER", ISN'T YOUR REAL MOTHER.
WE HAVE DIFFE-RENT MOTH-ERS?
IN ANY CASE, WE DON'T HAVE THE SAME MOTHER AS MIYAKO.
SO IT'S NOT REALLY DANGEROUS.
EVERY GENERATION WHEN THE ELDEST HOSHINA SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD HE SLEEPS WITH THAT SERPENT WOMAN WHO GIVES BIRTH TO A TWIN BOY AND GIRL
WAAH
THE HOSHINA SANCTUARY HOUSES A SERPENT WHO HAS LIVED FOR HUNDREDS OF CENTURIES IN THE FORM OF A WOMAN
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT WE DEFEATED THE ANCESTRAL GODS IN THE WHITE PALACE?

YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY THAT THE ELDEST [redacted] ...

HAS TO MAKE CHILDREN WITH HIS MOTHER?!

[redacted] the capital and we are recognized by the government.

For the prosperity of the family, the Hoshinas raise these children. The boy becomes the successor and the girl is sacrificed to the goddess.

The premature death of our father is the result of his wish to break off this tradition.

But, if we ever disrespect this, this custom we will die out.

YES.

AND THESE TWINS ARE MIYAKO AND ME?

YES... NOBODY SAYS ANYTHING, YES THE FAMILY MEMBERS ARE FED UP WITH THIS SEPRENT THAT HAUNTS THE HOUSE.

POOH!

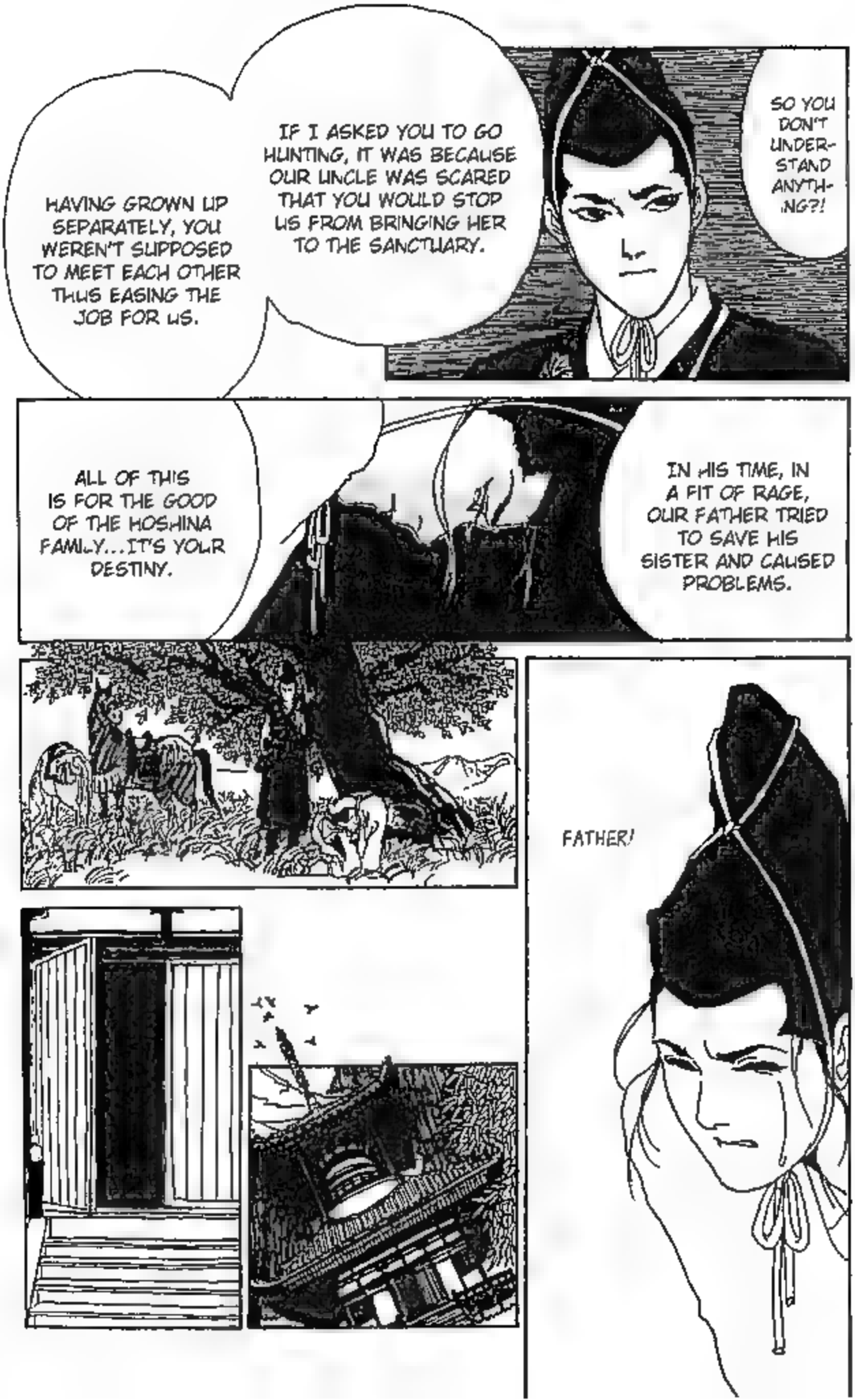
YES... YOU ARE THE FRUIT OF THE INCESTUOUS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEEN OUR FATHER AND THAT BALEFUL GODDESS.

IT'S NOT TRUE!

IT DISGUSTS ME TO HAVE TO CALL THE CHILDREN OF THAT CREATURE "BROTHER" AND "SISTER".

BUT FOR OUR DURABILTY, WE ARE FATED TO ACCEPT THE REPTILE'S CHILD AS THE SUCCESSOR OF THE ELDEST OF THE FMAILY.

INCESTUOUS RELATIONS SHOULDN'T BOTHER YOU. IT SEEMS THAT THE SERPENT IS PERVERSE, ISN'T THAT SO?
BE THAT AS IT MAY, YOU WILL NEVER SEE YOUR BELOVED SISTER ANYMORE!
NO! MY MOTHER IS HUMAN!
YOU ARE THE OFFSPRING OF THAT ABOMINABLE SERPENT!
BUT YOU ARE ALSO PART OF THAT GODDESS' FAMILY.
SACRIFICED?!
SHE IS GOING TO BE SACRIFICED TO THE SERPENT GODDESS.
IT'S TOO LATE.
MIYAKO WILL SOON BE IN THE SERPENT'S STOMACH.
OTHERWISE, I WOULDN'T WANT HER.
THAT'S WHY I OFFERED A LAST MEMORY FOR HER.


HAVING GROWN UP SEPARATELY, YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO MEET EACH OTHER THUS EASING THE JOB FOR US.
IF I ASKED YOU TO GO HUNTING, IT WAS BECAUSE OUR UNCLE WAS SCARED THAT YOU WOULD STOP US FROM BRINGING HER TO THE SANCTUARY.
SO YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND ANYTH-ING?!
ALL OF THIS IS FOR THE GOOD OF THE HOSHINA FAMILY...IT'S YOUR DESTINY.
IN HIS TIME, IN A FIT OF RAGE, OUR FATHER TRIED TO SAVE HIS SISTER AND CAUSED PROBLEMS.
FATHER!

SERPENT PRINCESS ... MOTHER!
ARE YOU THERE?
MY CHILD, IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO SEE YOU.
COME QUICKLY!
MOREOVER, I SENSE THAT YOU ARE HOLDING A GRUDGE.
IF YOU'RE VEXED WITH ME, YOU'LL SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS YOUR FATHER..
...AND YOUR FAMILY WILL CEASE TO EXIST. COME!
MY CHILD ...
MOTHER ... THE TIME WHERE THE GODS GOVERNED HUMANS IS PAST.
YOU DARE TO KILL ME WITH THAT SABER?
TO KILL YOUR BELOVED...
MIYA-KO?!
?!

A YOUNG GIRL'S BODY IS NECESSARY FOR ME TO CONTROL AND HOUSE MY SOUL.
I'M TOO OLD TO MAKE CHILDREN; I LOST THAT FUNCTION CENTURIES AGO.
BUT THIS BODY BELONGS TO THE ONE YOU LOVE.
I AM NOT MIYAKO.
MY CHILD ...
THE ONE WHO GIVES HER BODY MUST BE DIRECTLY DESCENDED FROM ME
DEEP DOWN DON'T YOU WISH TO ONE DAY MAKE LOVE WITH YOUR BELOVED SISTER?
COME. .
DON'T HESITATE!
YOUR DREAM CAN BE FULFILLED ...

"THE HOSHINA SANCTUARY HOUSES A SERPENT WHO HAS LIVED FOR HUNDREDS OF CENTURIES IN THE FORM OF A WOMAN."
!!

MIYAKO ?
...
MIYAKO !
WAKE UP!
!
MIYAKO !
WHY AM I STILL ALIVE?
I AM
MIY-AKO !
BUT WHY ...
MI-YAKO ...
I SUFFERED A LOT WHEN THINKING OF YOU BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE YOUR HEART.
I WAS COMFORTED WHEN I LEARNED THAT I WAS TO BE SACRIFICED TO THE SERPENT GOD BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE TO SUFFER ANYMORE..
WHO TOLD ME
I'M ASHAMED ... I ... IT'S YOSHIHIRA..

I UNDERSTAND HOW HAPPY FATHER MUST HAVE BEEN WHEN HE FOUND HIS SISTER IN THE SANCTUARY WHEN HE THOUGHT SHE DIED.
BUT THIS HAPPINESS ALSO BRINGS THE MAN INTO THE ANGUISH OF THE FORBIDDEN.
HOW DID THE HOSHINA FAMILY'S ELDEST SONS FEEL
MAYBE IT'S THE DESTINY OF THE HOSHINA TWINS TO BE ATTRACTED TO ONE ANOTHER.
OUR FATHER SECRETLY LOVED HIS SISTER.
WHEN THEY MADE LOVE WITH BOTH THEIR MOTHER AND SISTER?

BUT HE WAS OBLIGED TO HIS FAMILY.
OUR FATHER MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT IT WASN'T HER LAST WISH
HENCEFORTH, THERE WON'T BE A SERPENT GODDESS RULING THE PEOPLE WITH HER LAWS ANYMORE.
HE MADE LOVE TO HER ALL WHILE FEELING UNSPEAKABLY GUILTY
BE IT THAT WE GO TO HELL FOR LIVING TOGETHER,
BE IT THAT WE LEAD SEPARATE LIVES,
OR EVEN ... IF WE ENCOUNTER EACH OTHER IN OUR NEXT LIVES.
WE SHOULD FIND OUR PROPER COURSE.
FROM NOW ON, THE HOSHINAS WILL HAVE TO FACE THE REST OF THE WORLD.
THEN...

I DON'T SEE ATSUHIRA
WOULD HE HAVE BROUGHT THIS ON?
WHY IS THE DOOR OPEN?!
WHAT IS THIS?!
NO ONE'S TRIED TO ENTER IT BEFORE.
I NEVER DARED TO APPROACH IT BECAUSE OF THE CURSE.
NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THE ELDEST HOSHINA SONS COULD ENTER BEFORE HE WAS EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
!
YOU IMBECILES!
...
I WILL GO SEE ...
DON'T APPROACH!

...
IT'S THE END OF THE HOSHINA FAMILY ...
MANY YEARS LATER THE WORLD ENTERED A PERIOD OF CONFLICTS
WE WILL NEVER KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE OF THE SERPENT'S CURSE OR BECAUSE THE ERA WAS POLITICALLY UNSTABLE
ALONG THESE BATTLES, ONE COULD SEE THE COLLAPSED AND WEAKENED HOSHINAS.

I love Asia

Asia fascinates me, especially china.

But I never would've thought that this country would captivate me so much. As a result, the chinese idea I did was: a traditional ponytail haircut, the half shaved head, abundant sleeves that entirely covered the hands, and followed by saying "I am chinese" with a chinese accent.

Moreover, I wasn't interested in this kind of china, what attracted me when I was a little girl were all the stories of western knights in the middle ages.

Nevertheless, if I look in my memories the imaginary chinese were always present in my childhood. I remember a chinese book that had a lot of scratches. It was called "Xi You Ji (Trip towards the West)", a work dating back to the 16th century.

There's also a Chinese animated movie "Prince Nesha triumphs over the Dragon King" (1979) which was on the television. These stories have a lot of fantasy that really fascinates me, the monkey "Songoku" was graceful with his magical powers and his flying cloud and the little boy, Nezha, courageously fought with the evil dragon. I really liked Fairy tales that originated from the magical country that is China.

Later at a time when I was reading a lot of classic Japanese literature, I loved "Kokusenya-Kassen (The Kokusenya Battles)" (1715) of Monzaemon Chikamatsu (1653-1725). The writer writes about the life of Tei Seiko, called "the brave", at the end of the Ming period (1368-1644). It's a romantic story of a historic person. The ideas were unusually developed and very original, however they are representative of the Edo period and that really pleases me.

And one day, my passion for China became obvious. Since, it hasn't stopped anymore, I had a morbid infatuation for that country.
China, is a universe of magical people from Fairy tales, mysteriously living. I never know enough about them, but anyway these areas are infinite and stories that extend over four thousand years offer me possibilities that I never could've depleted in one lifetime.

I am interested in so many things at the moment and so disorganized in my research for this manga that you might find some errors and distortions on my part.

Confucius said: "If you like knowledge but don't like to study the knowledge will be false."

This book is a collection of my young works, it is full of imperfections. Read it with a bit of indulgence.

One last word...
People say that "the drawing looks like a cartoon" but that doesn't bother me, its looks will be a little like the mangas that influenced me. Still, the chinese told me that I had a chinese head!

Voila, I am ready to live in china until the end of my days....

I ask myself, what type of manga will I draw next time...

Natsuki Sumeragi

PUSS IN ON HIS BOOTS!

SHOUJO CRUSADE
TRANSLATIONS
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*Chinese Translators

*Japanese Translators

*Editors

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